TOGETHER IN THE MONTANA COMEBACK

2025 STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS REPORT

Governor Greg Gianforte

Cover photo: Indian relay race at North American Indian Days in Browning.

Credit: Department of Commerce.

REPORT CONCEPTS, WRITING, EDITING, AND SUPPORT TEAM: Misty Kuhl, Sean Southard, Guylaine Gelinas, Stacy Bruhn, Karli Hill, and policy advisors to the Governor's Office

REPORT DESIGN AND LAYOUT:

Sean Southard

State agencies, tribal partners, and private entities submitted primary materials that comprise the 2025 State-Tribal Relations Report. The Governor's Office is grateful to all who have contributed resources to the production of this report, including materials, funding, and time.

For further information, contact:

Governor's Office of Indian Affairs

State Capitol

P.O. Box 200801

Helena, MT 59620-0801

(406) 444-3111 (phone)

(406) 444-5529 (fax)

tribalnations.mt.gov

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 5
TRIBAL NATIONS OF MONTANA 6
RESOURCES 7
PARTNERING WITH INDIAN COUNTRY 8

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE 10
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT 11
INVESTING IN OUR INDIAN COMMUNITIES 12
TOURISM IN INDIAN COUNTRY 15
FARMERS AND RANCHERS IN INDIAN COUNTRY 18
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT 19
REVENUE INFLUX 21
ROADS, BRIDGES, AND MORE 23

EDUCATION AND CULTURE 28
SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION 29
HIGHER EDUCATION 33
CIVIC AND CULTURAL EDUCATION 41
HONORING TRIBAL HERITAGE 47

NATURAL RESOURCESAND WILDLIFE 50
PROMOTING PUBLIC ACCESS 51
COLLABORATING WITH TRIBAL PARTNERS 51
WATER & FORESTRY 55

SAFE AND HEALTHYCOMMUNITIES 59
HEALTHY COMMUNITIES 60
PROTECTING INDIAN COUNTRY 72
APPENDIX A: TRIBAL NATIONS' MAIN CONTACTS 79
APPENDIX B: AMERICAN INDIANS ON STATE BOARDS 80
APPENDIX C: GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AND CABINET AGENCIES' MAIN CONTACTS 82
APPENDIX D: STATE TRIBAL AGREEMENTS 84

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

GREG GIANFORTE
GOVERNOR

KRISTEN JURAS
LT. GOVERNOR

October 15, 2025

Dear Leaders of Tribal Nations in Montana,

It has likewise been a great honor to work with you to advance the shared goals of Montana and Indian Country. During my time in office, we've broken bread together, worked to expand economic opportunities, and discussed the big challenges facing our communities here at the State Capitol and in tribal council rooms.

Today, I am pleased to present to you the 2025 State-Tribal Relations Report, "Together in the Montana Comeback." In this year's report, you will get an overview of some of the progress we've made together over the last fiscal year to make Indian Country and Montana the best place to live, work, raise a family, and do business.

Together, we've advanced pro-jobs, pro-growth policies that support tribal communities and all Montanans. We've deepened our partnerships to ensure every child gets a strong education and protect the natural beauty of our state. We've honored cultural traditions and ensured the legacy of those who came before us with dignity and respect. And together, we've worked to make our communities safer and heathier, especially when it comes to the behavioral health crisis across Montana.

While we've made great progress, there's still much more work to do. I look forward to working with you to continue strengthening our partnerships and visiting with you in your community.

Serving as governor of the great State of Montana is the honor of my life. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me. My door is always open.

Sincerely,

Greg Gianforte
Governor

STATE CAPITOL • P.O. BOX 200801 • HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0801
TELEPHONE: 406-444-3111 • FAX: 406-444-5529 • WEBSITE: WWW.MT.GOV

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Governor Greg Gianforte proudly presents the fifth State-Tribal Relations Report of his administration. The report, which covers accomplishments in Montana for the state Fiscal Year 2025 (FY 25), provides information about the successful efforts borne from strong collaboration between the State of Montana and tribal partners.

This annual report has been presented to Montana's tribal governments since 2003, as mandated by Montana Code Annotated § 2-15-143.

The report contains five sections and four appendices:

Section I, Partnering in Indian Country - highlights the governor's visits to each of the eight tribal communities and governments in Montana as well as tribal summits hosted by the governor in the State Capitol.

Section II, Economic Development and Infrastructure - showcases programs and active measures to boost economic development and improve infrastructure in Indian Country, including supporting Native small business owners, entrepreneurs, and agricultural producers.

Section III, Education and Culture - describes successful efforts to improve education opportunities available to Native students, promote tribal contributions to Montana history, and preserve and showcase Native cultures.

Section IV, Natural Resources and Wildlife - details collaborative initiatives between the State of Montana and the eight Tribal Nations in Montana to conserve our environment and manage our resources.

Section V, Safe and Healthy Communities - outlines efforts to promote safe and healthy communities, including investing in mental health and substance use treatment services, providing access to preventative health care resources, strengthening families, improving food security, combating the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons, and advocating for and protecting consumers.

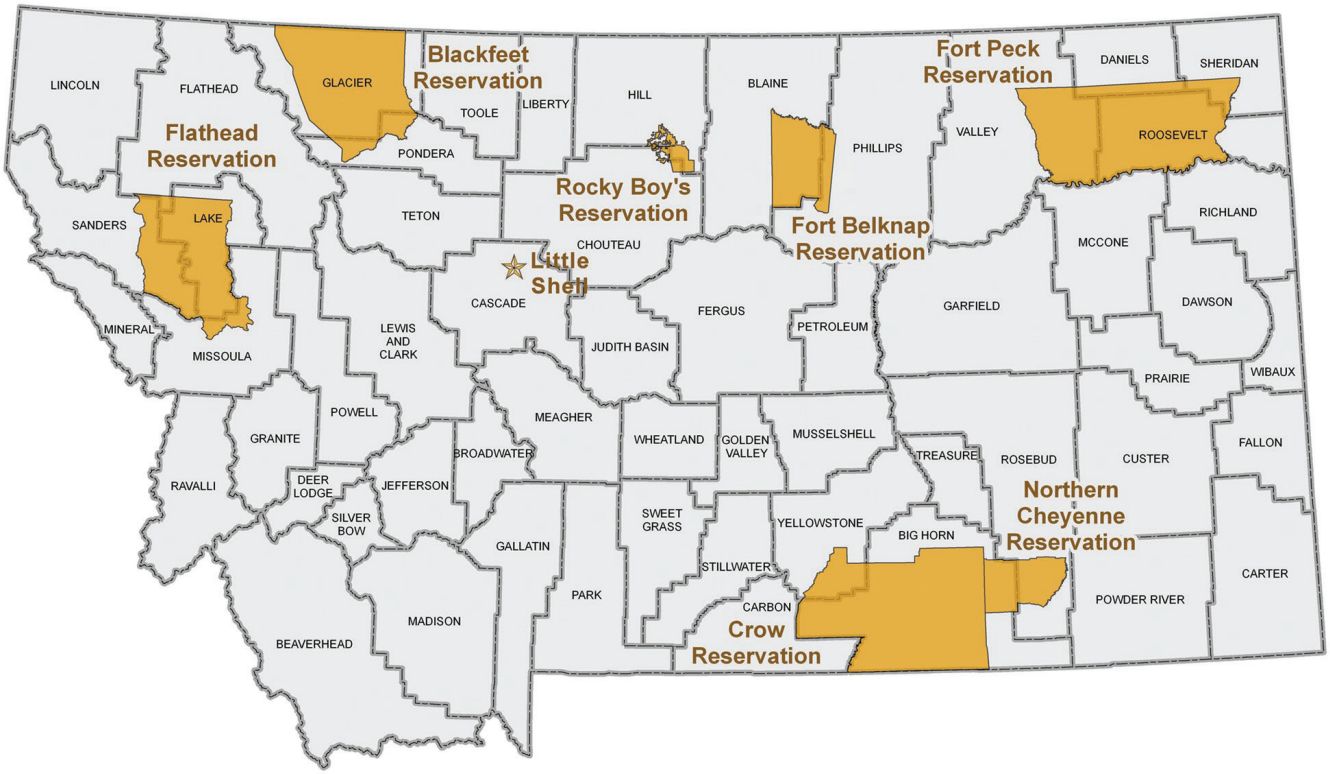
Appendix A - provides contact information for the eight Tribal Nations in Montana.

Appendix B - details gubernatorial appointments of American Indians serving Montana on state boards, councils, and committees.

Appendix C - provides a list of key Governor's Office staff and Cabinet members.

Appendix D - showcases more than 500 agreements, negotiations, and collaborative efforts that occurred during state FY 2025 between the state and the eight tribal governments in Montana.

TRIBAL NATIONS OF MONTANA



BLACKFEET RESERVATION

Home of the Blackfeet Nation headquartered in Browning, Montana

CROW RESERVATION

Home of the Crow Nation headquartered in Crow Agency, Montana

FLATHEAD RESERVATION

Home of the Confererated Salish, Pend d'Oreille & Kootenai Tribes headquarted in Pablo, Montana

FORT BELKNAP RESERVATION

Home of the Gros Ventre & Assiniboine Tribes headquartered in Fort Belknap Agency, Montana

FORT PECK RESERVATION

Home of the Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes headquartered in Poplar, Montana

LITTLE SHELL TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

Headquartered in Great Falls, Montana

NORTHERN CHEYENNE RESERVATION

Home of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe headquartered in Lame Deer, Montana

ROCKY BOY'S RESERVATION

Home of the Chippewa & Cree Tribes headquartered in Rocky Boy Agency, Montana

RESOURCES

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Governor's Office of Indian Affairs has a clear mission: to collaborate with tribes and Native communities in Montana to promote economic, spiritual, social, and physical health and wellness.

Misty Kuhl, an A'aniiih member of Fort Belknap Indian Community, leads the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs. Born and raised in Montana, Director Kuhl is a cum laude graduate of Montana State University-Billings.

The Office of Indian Affairs coordinates efforts with the Montana American Indian Caucus, the State-Tribal Relations Committee, legislators, community stakeholders, and others to advocate for issues important to Indian Country.

Dedicated to community outreach, Director Kuhl travels thousands of miles each year to partner with tribes on various projects and strengthen relationships. She looks forward to continuing the governor's commitment to being actively engaged in our tribal communities and a strong advocate for Indian Country.

STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Between legislative sessions, the State-Tribal Relations Committee (STRC) acts as the Legislature's liaison with tribal governments in Montana. Ten members, four from the Montana State Senate and six from the Montana House of Representatives, comprise the bipartisan committee, which meets with tribal leaders to hear their concerns and receive input on various topics of interest to the tribes and the state. The STRC typically visits two to four reservations per interim.

The committee encourages intergovernmental cooperation, conducts wide-ranging interim studies, and reports its activities, findings, and recommendations, including legislation, to the next Legislature.

Rep. Tyson Running Wolf of Browning serves as chairman, and Sen. Gayle Lammers of Hardin serves as vice chairman. Learn more about the committee at: https://leg.mt.gov/committees/interim / strc/

MONTANA AMERICAN INDIAN CAUCUS

The Montana American Indian Caucus (MAIC) serves an essential role in state government, both representing Native American constituents and providing guidance to the Legislature and the administration. A bipartisan group of Native American representatives and senators comprise the caucus.

PARTNERING WITH INDIAN COUNTRY

Fulfilling his promise to Montanans, Governor Greg Gianforte each year visits all the state's 56 counties and each of the eight tribal communities and governments.

The governor also hosts delegations from each of Montana's tribes in the State Capitol, building common ground and strengthening critical partnerships with tribal governments. These face-to-face meetings and in-person visits, both in the governor's office and in Indian Country, facilitate open discussions on shared priorities as well as challenges facing Tribal Nations in Montana and the state.

Gov. Gianforte meeting with Northern Cheyenne tribal council members in Lame Deer. Governor's Office.

ON THE ROAD IN TRIBAL COUNTRY

Every year, Governor Gianforte travels to each Indian reservation and headquarters, meeting with tribal leaders, small business owners, and community groups strengthening Indian Country.

Gov. Gianforte hearing from the Rocky Boy Agency Tribal Council at the Rocky Boy Health Center in Box Elder. Governor's Office.

"Our strength lies in our ability to come together, the State of Montana and tribal governments alike, to tackle the big challenges facing our communities. Whether it's expanding economic opportunity, improving access to health care, or protecting our natural resources and cherished traditions, we are stronger when we work side by side."

- Governor Greg Gianforte

Gov. Gianforte rides in the 105th annual Crow Fair with Crow Tribe Chairman Frank White Clay. Governor's Office.

Gov. Gianforte hearing from Little Shell Chairman Gray. Governor's Office.

Gov. Gianforte meeting with Blackfeet Tribal Council Chairman Gervais. Governor's Office.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

With the governor's pro-jobs, pro-growth policies and the hard work of Montanans, Montana continues to set records for job growth, business creation, and unemployment, including in Indian Country.

The State of Montana will continue to work with Montanans in every community to make our state and Indian Country an even better place to live, work, raise a family, and achieve the American dream.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

As a business leader and entrepreneur, Governor Gianforte is creating an environment where small businesses can thrive and create good-paying Montana jobs. From cutting taxes and red tape to improving infrastructure, Governor Gianforte has taken significant steps to help Montana's small business owners prosper and create greater opportunities for more Montanans to achieve the American dream. Through programs like Made in Montana and the Tribal Business Development Grant, the State of Montana empowers tribally-owned businesses to succeed.

MADE IN MONTANA

For a product to bear the Native American Made in Montana logo, it must be made in the state by a registered member of one of the eight tribal nations that call Montana home. The NAMIM logo honors the authentic cultures, creations and values that represent Indian Country across Montana.

NAMIM products infuse all sectors of the economy, including traditional and modern artwork, electronics, lumber, livestock and their genetics, textiles, commodity crops and prepared foods. The 63 current NAMIM members produce a variety of products including art, jewelry, gifts, milled lumber, food, beef, outdoor gear and furniture.

The Made in Montana Tradeshow for Food and Gifts hosts a NAMIM pavilion to showcase members' work to wholesale and retail buyers. This annual tradeshow in early March aligns with tourism industry buying patterns. In 2025, three NAMIM members exhibited their art, jewelry, personal care products and apparel in the pavilion.

NAMIM members Dee Goss and son Dan England of Roots & Shoots won "Best in Show - New Exhibitor" at the 2025 Made in Montana Tradeshow in Helena. Montana Department of Commerce.

The Montana Department of Commerce's Office of Indian Country Economic Development selected these NAMIM members to exhibit at the tradeshow and sponsored their booth fees: Roots & Shoots LLC, Blackfeet and Little Shell Chippewa; MT Sue's Creations, Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribe; and LS 547, Little Shell Chippewa. Roots & Shoots LLC won "Best in Show- New Exhibitor" out of a competitive field of 25 new exhibitors.

INVESTING IN OUR INDIAN COMMUNITIES

STATE TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The State Tribal Economic Development Commission meets on a quarterly basis, with meetings in Wolf Point, Billings, Helena and Great Falls this past year. The commission is administratively attached to the Montana Department of Commerce.

STEDC assists, promotes, develops and generates recommendations for accelerating tribal economic growth in business expansion, manufacturing, tourism, agriculture and community development. It's comprised of 11 governor-appointed members representing the eight tribal nations in Montana, Commerce, the Governor's Office of Economic Development and the governor's director of Indian affairs.

Upon STEDC recommendations, Commerce's Tribal Tourism Officer Rachelle Brown worked with Windfall, Commerce's agency of record, for Indian Country productions to create content for spring 2027 promotional materials. STEDC voted to support the production and establishment of eight working groups to secure Indigenous producers for the videography and photography.

Scott Smoker of Smoke Signal Studios and Jordan Lefler of Lefler Photography, both native-owned media production companies, were tasked with capturing content from Indian Country for summer 2025 and summer 2026. This content includes video for eight short films for visitmt.com and photography for the new Indian Country guidebook.

TRIBAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Offered through the Montana Department of Commerce, the Tribal Business Development Grant is a competitive grant program that connects participating tribes of Montana with resources to advance shovel-ready projects offering a measurable, beneficial economic impact for the community. The TBDG is intended for the governing bodies of Montana's eight tribal governments or tribally owned businesses and helps with projects for which planning is nearly complete, approval permits are in place and laborers can get to work once sufficient funding is secured.

The 2025 TBDG awardees were the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the Blackfeet Tribe.

CSKT was awarded $150,600 to purchase and set up its meat processing office and retail modular unit in Ronan.

The Blackfeet Tribe was awarded $89,400 to bolster the operational capacity of the Blackfeet Tribe Buffalo Program located in Browning. It will implement two freezer units and one freezer transport unit for upholding food security efforts for its tribal citizens.

INDIAN EQUITY FUND GRANTS

In FY25, the Montana Department of Commerce's Indian Equity Fund Program awarded grants to 25 Native American-owned businesses across the agriculture, ranching, hunting outfitting, construction, arts and crafts, welding, trucking, wellness, automotive, food and beverage, resort, embroidery, equestrian, pet services and graphic design and merchandise industries. These grants directly contribute to job creation, business expansion and the overall strengthening of tribal economies, demonstrating the vibrant entrepreneurial spirit across Montana's tribal communities.

The following businesses were selected to receive IEF grant funding:

Blackfeet

- Divide Mountain BBQ: $7,000 to purchase appliances for its mobile kitchen
- Johnson's of St. Mary, LLC: $10,000 for hosting and accommodations business expenses
- Old North Trail Enterprises, LLC: $13,400 for technological upgrades
- Omie's Pizza: $14,000 to purchase kitchen equipment

Chippewa Cree

- Dusty Welding: $5,600 to purchase welding tools and safety equipment
- Rockin Ridge Construction: $14,000 to purchase a dump truck

Dane Dahl, owner of PAMS Ag service, sprays fields for farmers on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation with a newly purchased drone through an IEF grant. Pam Dahl.

- SSW Beadwork: $10,000 for renovations, inventory expansion and a new point of sale system Confederated Salish and Kootenai
- Cutting Edge Solutions, LLC: $14,000 to purchase new auto shop equipment
- Lemon Drops & Treats: $14,000 to purchase commercial-grade kitchen and display equipment
- Ty's Malt Shop: $14,000 for renovations Crow
- Big Crane Outfitters: $14,000 to upgrade safety equipment and machinery for enhanced outfitting experiences
- K-M Livestock: $14,000 to build a new storage facility to protect livestock feed and ranch supplies Fort Belknap
- Garrett Doney, LLC: $14,000 to upgrade equipment for efficient hauling
- Kevin Hawley: $14,000 for shop renovations to increase business capacity
- Wa'asniya Massage Therapy: $14,000 to expand to a new and improved spa facility

Fort Peck

- 653 Custom Designs: $12,000 to acquire a Roland VersaSTUDIO for expanded design capabilities
- Baby Lonnie's Beer Mug: $14,000 to purchase a new central air conditioning unit
- Whatever Construction: $14,000 to purchase new welding equipment
- Wolf City Auto, Inc.: $14,000 to improve accessibility with new sidewalks

Little Shell Chippewa

- E-1 Towing: $14,000 to purchase new tools and diagnostic technology
- Bougie Paws, LLC: $12,000 to purchase new equipment and technology
- The Kinder Cowboy, LLC: $12,000 to purchase a new vehicle for transporting horses
- Mad Hatter Sweets and Treats: $14,000 to acquire a generator and a food truck vehicle wrap
- Milk River Meats & Eats: $14,000 to purchase meat processing equipment

Northern Cheyenne

- PAMS Ag Service: $14,000 to purchase a drone system to improve agricultural precision and efficiency

NATIVE AMERICAN BUSINESS ADVISORS

Native American Business Advisors are tribal community-based organizations, tribal colleges or tribal government entities in Montana that are vital partners in driving economic development on reservations. These organizations, including the Native American Community Development Corporation, Blackfeet; the Bear Paw Development Corporation, Chippewa Cree; Salish Kootenai Business Services, Confederated Salish and Kootenai; Plenty Doors Community Development, Crow; the Montana Native Growth Fund, Fort Belknap; the Great Northern Development Corporation, Fort Peck; the Little Shell Chippewa Tribe; and the People's Partner for Community Development, Northern Cheyenne, contribute crucial business and credit counseling, technical assistance and application support to Native American entrepreneurs and businesses.

NABAs are a key asset in empowering tribal members to start, grow and sustain businesses. They assist with planning, marketing and financial projections; commercial loan and grant application support, including for the Montana Department of Commerce's Indian Equity Fund Small Business Grant; credit counseling and financial management training; and building local capacity to foster sustainable, Native-owned businesses.

AMERICAN Indigenous BUSINESS LEADERS

Created by MSU students, a joint Blackfeet/Crow business plan was presented at the American Indian Business Leaders (AIBL) conference in March 2025 and remains an active project.

Culture Craft Dolls is a Native-owned company that blends customizable dolls with educational booklets featuring authentic Blackfeet and Crow designs. The goal is to preserve Indigenous stories, foster intergenerational connection, and promote cultural understanding.

Manufacturing and distribution are based on the Blackfeet and Crow Reservations to ensure authenticity and support local economies. A reservation-based customer service representative will provide direct support, reinforcing the company's commitment to community and respectful representation.

NATIVE AMERICAN COLLATERAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Montana Department of Commerce's Native American Collateral Support Program (NACS) addresses capital access barriers faced by Native American-owned Montana businesses. NACS offers collateral support to participating lenders, who in turn help businesses lacking sufficient collateral or equity to secure a traditional loan.

Since April 2024, the NACS Program contributed $350,390.24 to support loans for four businesses:

- G&M Pizza, Inc. in Ronan received $100,000 to purchase a local restaurant, Stageline Pizza.
- Polson Auto Parts in Polson received $110,000 for inventory and equipment purchases.
- Blackfeet Lodge Group, Inc. dba Glacier Laundry, in Browning received $110,000 to buy a commercial building which at times is the only operating public laundromat on the Blackfeet Reservation.
- Coming Down FM1 in Polson received $30,390.24 for firefighting equipment for a startup, enabling the business owner to fulfill his newly awarded USDA Forest Service fire suppression contract.

TOURISM IN INDIAN COUNTRY

Montana's tourism efforts play a vital role in elevating the visibility and cultural richness of the state's tribal communities.

By promoting authentic experiences and supporting tribal-led tourism initiatives, the Department of Commerce helps foster greater understanding and appreciation of Montana's tribal nations.

These efforts not only contribute to economic development within tribal communities but also strengthen government-to-government relationships.

ANNUAL TOURISM GRANTS

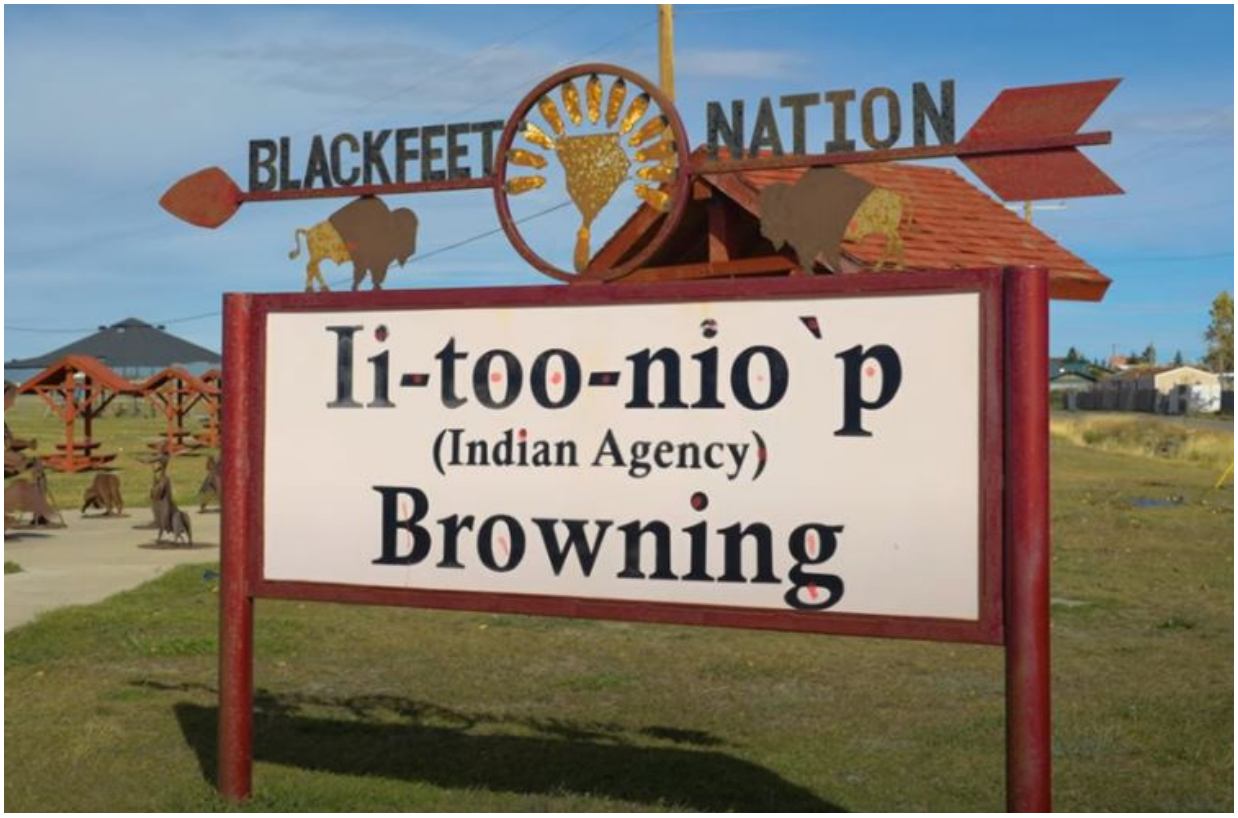
The Annual Tourism Grant Program, part of the Montana Department of Commerce's Tourism Grant Program, builds upon existing tourism infrastructure, raises awareness of Montana as a tourist destination, and supports sustainable economic development in communities across the state.

The ATG Program awarded the Crow Tribe $69,750 during the last cycle in February 2023. Throughout 2023, strategic planning, research and data collection was underway for visitcrowcountry.com. After an extended request for proposal process, the Crow Tribe contracted Rebel River Creative from Billings for graphic design. The website came to life through a four-phased approach: purchasing a domain name, finalizing site products and outreach with local and regional tourism businesses and interested parties; finding a website developer, graphic designer and professional photographer and videographer for content creation; content generation, website layout and design and narrative drafting; and finally the successful publication and launch of the completed website.

Through partnerships with Montana businesses and tourism stakeholders, visitcrowcountry.com reaches local, regional, national and international visitors to capture a previously untapped audience.

PILOT COMMUNITY TOURISM

The Pilot Community Tourism Grant Program at the Montana Department of Commerce elevates Montana communities by improving their appeal as visitor destinations. By diversifying tourism assets and infrastructure, this program cultivates regional visions, harnesses the power of tourism and develops unique experiences.



The Blackfeet Nation was awarded a Pilot Community Tourism Grant in June 2024 to develop a sustainable tourism economy. Montana Department of Commerce

In June 2024, the Blackfeet Nation received a transformative grant—up to $2.75 million over five years—from the Montana Department of Commerce's Pilot Community Tourism Grant Program. The funding aims to enhance tourism by leveraging natural beauty and cultural heritage, while preserving the tribe's lifestyle and identity.

The journey began with a groundbreaking ceremony at All Chiefs Park in Browning on May 21, 2025. After years of planning, the Blackfeet Water Department and Kent Watson and Associates unveiled a vision for a vibrant community space featuring sculpture plazas, playgrounds, pedestrian bridges, and a performance zone—all designed to reflect Blackfeet traditions.

Further north in Babb, the Chewing Black Bones campground is undergoing major renovations. Led by the Siyeh Corporation, upgrades will bring ADA-compliant facilities, expanded camping options, and improved infrastructure to support increased visitor access.

To guide long-term growth, the Blackfeet Nation partnered with the Center for Rural Outreach and Public Services, Inc. to develop a comprehensive economic development strategy. This roadmap blends research, design, and cultural programming to foster resilience and sustainable prosperity.

ANNUAL TOURISM GRANTS

The Economic Impact and Destination Event Grant Program, part of the Montana Department of Commerce's Tourism Grant Program, helps with destination events that will increase tourism, promote Montana's unique attributes, and generate revenue.

Indigenous Vision was awarded $15,000 during the May 2024 grant cycle for the Bear Gulch Visitor Center exhibit. This exhibit, which opened on June 28, 2025, houses a life-sized Bear Brave replica along with arrows and weapons used by the warriors.

The Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation was awarded $20,000 in the May 2024 grant cycle and $12,500 during the December 2024 grant cycle for the Rocky Boy's Annual Powwow and Rodeo Celebration. This event showcases the excitement, vibrant culture and heritage of the Chippewa Cree Tribe through traditional Native American songs, dances and drumming.

The Northern Cheyenne Tribe was awarded $25,000 in the May 2024 grant cycle for a cultural community event in July 2024 that brought visitors from across the state for four days of family activities, parades, dancing and singing, traditional giveaways, and hand game tournaments. This event drives economic impact through increased vendor sales of food and beverages, unique arts, crafts, and beadwork.

Rocky Boy's Powwow. Montana Department of Commerce

EASTERN MONTANA INITIATIVE

The Eastern Montana Initiative Grant Program, part of the Montana Department of Commerce's Tourism Grant Program, enhances existing tourism infrastructure, raises awareness of eastern Montana as a tourist destination, and supports sustainable economic development.

Through the EMIG Program, the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa was awarded $75,000 in May 2023. The tribe has been working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to obtain permission to install solar panels at the Hell Creek Recreation Area. With the USACE lease agreement and fundraising nearly completed, installation has been strategically mapped. Fifteen sites will be upgraded with solar panels in the fall of 2025. This project will reduce monthly electricity costs, leading to long-term savings with lower overall operating costs; environmental sustainability through a reduction in carbon footprint; and an increase in visitor appeal due to eco-friendliness, reliability, and energy independence.

FARMERS AND RANCHERS IN INDIAN COUNTRY

Agriculture is Montana's number one industry. Our farmers and ranchers, many of whom live and work on Indian reservations, work to produce commodities that are recognized around the world for their superior quality. We take pride in our producers and our diverse agricultural ecosystem that make a vital contribution to feeding the world.

The Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) runs 30 different programs that are tailored to supporting the agriculture community. The MDA continuously works to preserve and promote the Montana agricultural brand, ensuring that our producers can capture more of the value they create. Additionally, the MDA works to support our producers as they lead the charge in addressing mental health issues and agricultural specific stress support that affects farmers and ranchers state and nationwide.

GROWTH THROUGH AGRICULTURE GRANT

The Montana Department of Agriculture has invested over $915,000 in forward-thinking agricultural initiatives through its Growth Through Agriculture (GTA) program. Established by the state legislature in 1987, the program aims to strengthen and diversify Montana's agriculture industry by supporting the development of new products and processes.

Among the recipients were tribal communities advancing sustainability and food security. Grants included:

- Fort Belknap: $25,000 to construct a snow-resilient greenhouse, scheduled for completion in 2025
- Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes: $50,000 to launch a composting facility for animal waste, with completion expected in 2027

GTA funding is awarded by a seven-member Agriculture Development Council, appointed by the Governor. Grants, loans, or a combination of both are determined during scheduled council meetings and require a dollar-for-dollar match from recipients.

AG FINANCE PROGRAM

The Montana Department of Agriculture Ag Finance Program has a revolving loan fund to help producers acquire assets for their agriculture enterprises.

The Montana Department of Agriculture issued 11 loans worth $844,400 to tribal members on four of Montana's Indian Reservations.

These loans are for production agricultural purchases.

NOXIOUS WEED TRUST GRANTS

The Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund (NWTF) Grant Program was established by the 1985 Montana Legislature to provide funding for the noxious weed research projects, state and community education/development projects, and local cooperative - landowner cost share. Applicants may apply for funding up to $75,000 per project.

Six Montana reservations received a $7,500 Special County/Reservation grant from the Noxious Weed Trust Fund to enhance their noxious weed management programs. Funding is often used for education, purchasing equipment, hiring seasonal staff, and for other necessary resources.

LOCAL FOOD PURCHASE ASSISTANCE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

The Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA) supports state, tribal, and territorial governments in purchasing local foods to enhance food supply chain resiliency. From FY23-25, the Montana Department of Agriculture distributed $1.5 million to ten sub-awardees, focusing on getting food from underserved producers to underserved communities, including rural and tribal areas. $1,316,876.50, or about 84% of the grant was used to purchase from producers to provide food for local community members. Tribal grantees include:

- Day Eagle Hope Project: Works with Fort Belknap Indian Reservation $200,000
- Flathead Food Bank: Outreach includes Blackfeet, Flathead, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes $108,000
- Helping Hands in Hardin: Crow & Northern Cheyenne Reservation $200,000
- Mission West Community Partners: CSKT Food Sovereignty Team, SKC Extension Program for the Flathead Reservation (including the victory garden program) $199,000
- North Valley Food Bank: partnering with FAST Blackfeet $155,000
- People's Partner for Community Development: Northern Cheyenne Food Pantry Partners $134,000

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

WORKFORCE OUTREACH

In October 2023, the Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) established the Office of the Tribal Liaison to strengthen workforce development in Native communities. The office has grown into a dedicated team focused on collaboration, cultural respect, and tailored programming. Key achievements included:

- 26 Tribal Consultations across 13 Tribes and 7 reservations
- Youth Engagement Role created to connect Native youth with career pathways
- 6 Workforce Roundtables with TERO directors, Tribal leaders, colleges, and employers

Commissioner Swanson, Tribal Liason Donald Wetzel, and TERO Director Nancy Boushie meet at the 2025 Aaniiih Nakoda Expo. Montana Department of Labor & Industry.

Signature Initiatives

- Workforce Warrior Poster Series: Showcasing Native role models in skilled trades and entrepreneurship; posters to be placed in schools statewide
- Commercial Driver's License Program at A'aniiih Nakoda College: In partnership with Fort Belknap TERO, offering high-wage career training
- Fort Belknap Job Expo: Engaged 444 students with 50 employers in hands-on career exploration
- Lame Deer Job Service Office: First new office in 30+ years, improving access for Northern Cheyenne job seekers.

- MC3 Trades Curriculum at Rocky Boy: Industry certification and apprenticeship pathways for Stone Child College students

Expanding Student Success

- Jobs for Montana's Graduates (JMG): Operating in 19 schools, serving 200+ Native students with an 84% graduation rate—well above the state average

Community Empowerment

- West Creek Ranch Retreat: Tribal leaders, TEROs, and DLI staff united to advance youth-focused workforce innovation, mentorship, and cultural integration

A'ANIIIH NAKODA EXPO

In April, the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) had the opportunity to participate in the A'aniiih Nakoda Workforce Expo to allow students and community members the opportunity to climb into two of MDT's snowplows and ask the snowplow operators job related questions.

MDT also had a table set up with Motor Carrier Services scale officers sharing brochures, career flyers and information on how to find and apply for current MDT job listings.

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CAREER FAIRS

MDT attended nine Tribal Career Fairs in the spring of 2025.

These job fairs took place in the first two weeks of April and locations included Lame Deer, Billings, Fort Peck Reservation, Fort Belknap Reservation, Box Elder, Browning, and Pablo.

MDT representative speaks with attendee of Tribal Career Fair.
Montana Department of Transportation.

MDT representatives traveled Montana State Highways to engage, inform, and recruit local tribal community members for MDT career opportunities. Expressed interest was shown in equipment operator, civil engineering technician, Motor Carrier Services (MCS) enforcement officer, the internship program, along with other MDT job opportunities.

MDT representatives provided information on the many benefits offered to full-time state employees, such as health care benefits, retirement plans, work life balance, and career advancement opportunities.

REVENUE INFLUX

Tax cooperative agreements promote cooperation between the State and sovereign tribal governments to prevent dual taxation while ensuring critical state, local, and tribal tax collection.

The Montana Department of Revenue (DOR) and the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) collect and distribute the tribes' taxes on tribal members on a quarterly basis, based on the taxes collected during the prior quarter.

MDT has tax cooperative agreements in effect with the Blackfeet, Chippewa Cree, Confederated Salish and Kootenai (CSKT), Crow, Fort Belknap, Fort Peck, and Northern Cheyenne Tribes for motor fuel tax. In FY 2025, these agreements generated more than $6 million for tribal governments.

RESERVATION	AMOUNT
BLACKFEET	$1,240,327.84
CSKT	$706,487.93
FORT BELKNAP	$608,045.09
FORT PECK	$969,056.73
ROCKY BOY	$558,475.26
NORTHERN CHEYENNE	$630,651.36
CROW	$1,411,951.19
TOTAL	**$6,124,995.41**

The Department of Revenue also has tax cooperative agreements with tribal communities for alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana revenues.

TRIBAL TOURISM BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Funded through the Montana Department of Commerce, the Tribal Tourism Small Business Grant encourages economic and recreational development, including in Montana's Indian County.

Sacred Trails Guides and Outfitters of Browning received a 2025 TTSB grant to expand tourism experiences. Montana Department of Commerce.

With $240,000 in funding available for 24 awards per year, this grant program awards up to $10,000 to each recipient.

The program focuses on the startup or expansion of small businesses across five target areas in Montana's Indian Country: Native American Made in Montana vendors and producers; hosted accommodations, experiences or tour operators; licensed outfitters and guides in the hunting and fishing industry; licensed food and beverage vendors in mobile food trucks or brick-and-mortar stores; and businesses that support tribal tourism.

This fiscal year, 17 native-owned businesses were each awarded $10,000:

- Assiniboine Books in Wolf Point, for NAMIM business expansion
- Baby Got Back BBQ in Wolf Point, for licensed food and beverage business improvement
- Backpacker's Ferry, LLC in Browning, for the expansion of tourism
- Bluebird Enterprizes, LLC in Hays, for tourism support services and business
- Sweet Sips in Ashland, for licensed food and beverage business
- Buckaroo Brews in Cut Bank, for licensed food and beverage business
- Elliot Ranch Branded Beef, LLC in Lame Deer, for licensed food and beverage business
- Iron Shield Creative, LLC in Browning, for tourism experience and business improvement
- Johnson's of St. Mary in St. Mary, for hosting and accommodations business
- Leaning Tree Camp and Cabins in Babb, for tourism accommodations business expansion
- Lemon Drip in Lame Deer, for licensed food and beverage business
- Lone Pine Cabin, LLC in Browning, for tourism accommodation business expansion
- Redbyrd Designs in Glasgow, for NAMIM business expansion
- Sacred Trails Guides and Outfitters, LLC in Browning, for the expansion of tourism experiences business
- SSW Beadwork in Havre, for NAMIM business expansion
- Stumitsikitsikin Art Collective in Poplar, for NAMIM business location expansion
- Wolf Point General Mercantile in Wolf Point, for NAMIM business expansion

ROADS, BRIDGES, AND MORE

Investing in roads, bridges, and other infrastructure improvements in Montana and in tribal communities is a key part of Gov. Gianforte's Comeback Plan.

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is working closely with our tribal partners to identify areas where state government can come alongside tribal communities to repair older infrastructure and break ground on new projects. Over the course of the last year, MDT made progress on many improvement projects to the benefit of our tribal communities.

HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

CSKT

The US-93/Old Highway 93 project aims to make the intersection safer by constructing a non-traditional intersection so that motorists on Old Highway 93 will turn right on US-93 and do a legal U-turn at a nearby median crossover. This design eliminates the conflict where severe crashes occur, potentially reducing injury crashes by more than 40% and fatal crashes by 70%.

The Perma Curves project is on a 5 mile stretch of Highway 200 between Paradise and Dixon. MDT is evaluating options at this location to improve safety which may include reconstruction and/or spot safety projects. The project is located in a cultural and environmentally sensitive area with steep cliffs on one side and a river on the other.

MDT is conducting a Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) project to address intersection-related crashes on MT-35 (P-52) near Polson. Proposed improvements include the installation of a northbound left-turn lane at Finley Point Road.

Through the Ronan–North and Ronan-Urban projects, the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) will reconstruct approximately four miles of US Highway 93 (US 93) in Ronan. US 93 is a busy route used by residents, visitors, and commercial vehicles traveling from Interstate 90 (I-90) and Missoula to communities in Lake and Flathead Counties. In Ronan, traffic often becomes congested as the highway passes through the busy downtown area. The problem worsens in summer when tourists and recreationists head north to the lakes and Glacier National Park. Traffic is expected to increase significantly in the coming years.

Fort Peck

Montana Highway 13 between Wolf Point and Scobey is outdated and costly to maintain. MDT plans to rebuild a 7.1-mile segment that will generally follow the existing route, with minor shifts to avoid sensitive features. Grades will be flattened to increase sight distance and timber bridges will be replaced at Sprague Coulee and Midway Coulee. The wider shoulders, flatter side slopes, centerline and shoulder rumble strips, new signs and new pavement markings will enhance safety.

MDT is working on a project to address roadway departure crashes on Powder River Road, north of Wolf Point. The SF 209 N of Wolf Point Safety project begins 2 miles north of Wolf Point and ends just outside of town. The improvements will include flattened side slopes and extended or replaced culverts.

About four miles north of Poplar, MDT is working on a project to improve two curves on Poplar River Road to reduce the expected occurrence and severity of crashes. The roadway will be reconstructed, including four feet wide shoulders, centerline and shoulder rumble strips, signage, striping, and delineation for one curve.

The second curve will receive curve signage and delineation.

In Fort Kipp, MDT is working on a project on BIA Route 1 to improve the existing curves to reduce the expected occurrence and severity of crashes. The roadway will be reconstructed, including four feet wide shoulders, centerline and shoulder rumble strips, signage, striping, and delineation.

Fort Belknap

MDT is working on the Milk River - Fort Belknap Project, which will upgrade an old portion of US 191 by providing improved alignment, a wider travel surface, and a more forgiving roadside. The two-lane roadway will be widened to have six feet wide shoulders on each side of the travel lanes. The improvements will enhance roadway safety and improve travel conditions for local communities and the agricultural industry surrounding the area.

Crow

MDT is working the SF 159 St Xavier Curve Reconstruction project to completely reconstruct two locations on S-313. The primary purpose of this project is to improve the existing curves to reduce the expected occurrence and severity of crashes. The first site is located just south of St. Xavier, with the second located to the east. The roadway will be reconstructed, including four feet wide shoulders, centerline and shoulder rumble strips, new drainage structures, signage, striping, and delineation.

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AND REHABILITATION PROJECTS

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is advancing several bridge rehabilitation and replacement projects in coordination with tribal governments and federal partners.

A major initiative involves five bridge structures along I-90 near Crow Agency in Big Horn County. The project includes deck replacements, PPC overlays, crack sealing, barrier rail installation, and other structural improvements. Structures affected include:

- One bridge at the Little Bighorn Battlefield / HWY 212 interchange
- Two bridges at the Crow Agency interchange
- Two bridges crossing the Little Bighorn River south of the battlefield exchange

In FY 2025, MDT executed a tribal agreement for preliminary engineering and plan development. Construction is expected in 2027, with an estimated cost of $8 million, funded by State and Federal Highway Administration sources.

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes received a Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) grant to improve US-93 near the Ninepipe National Wildlife Management Area. Planned work includes roadway reconstruction, bridge replacements, wildlife crossings, and a shared-use path. A separate project will replace a deteriorated timber bridge on Moiese Valley Road over Crow Creek near Ronan.

On Fort Peck lands, MDT is planning to replace the bridge over Big Muddy Creek near Medicine Lake and develop a project to replace two structures on US-2 between Frazer and Wolf Point.

These efforts reflect MDT’s ongoing commitment to improving infrastructure in partnership with Montana’s tribal communities.

CULVERT REPAIR, REPLACEMENT PROJECTS

The I-90 - Billings area project will repair nine and replace three existing deteriorated culverts in Big Horn, Stillwater and Yellowstone Counties. The culverts are located under I-90 between Columbus and Lodge Grass. In the three locations where culverts have been determined to need replacement, crossovers will be constructed.

The MT-28 Culverts–Hot Springs expedited project will replace four structurally compromised culverts that carry Dry Fork Creek and Camas B Irrigation canal under MT-28 north of Hot Springs, in Sanders County. The Dry Fork Creek culverts are located about 4 miles north of Hot Springs, and the Camas B Irrigation Canal Culverts are located about 0.4 miles south of Lonepine. The functioning of these culverts is vital to water access for local farmers, and the structural integrity of the roadway of MT-28 to ensure the safety of the traveling public.

The US-2 Culvert Rehab project will include the replacement or rehabilitation of 3 large culverts on US 2 and one smaller culvert on MT-24. The sites are west of Dodson in Phillips County, east of Wolf Point in Roosevelt County, east of Poplar in Roosevelt County, and south of Fort Peck in McCone County. The purpose of this project is to address the needs identified at these culvert sites before they deteriorate beyond repair or experience a catastrophic failure, adversely impacting the safety and function of the corridor.

HIGHWAY 212 SAFETY ACTION PLAN

In order to improve public safety, the Montana Department of Transportation worked to address traffic issues along Highway 212.

In cooperation with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Montana Highway Patrol, Representative Jade Sooktis, and Rosebud, Treasure, and Big Horn counties, Motor Carrier Services and MHP conducted a 2-day joint operation for commercial vehicle operations.

In the future, this will be a quarterly effort to improve commercial vehicle safety. Additionally, MDT reviewed no passing zones, modified centerline pavement markings, and installed “No Passing” pennants. MDT will be adding additional speed limit signs to reinforce the posted limits. Going forward, MDT is conducting a safety review and speed study on Highway 212 near the intersection of I-90.

CONSTRUCTION APPROACH PERMIT

MDT worked with Chippewa Cree Tribal Roads to issue a permit for them to construct an approach with access to US-87, south of Box Elder. The current approach had numerous washouts on Box Elder Creek with continued transportation and safety issues highly likely. The new approach will alleviate this issue.

COAL ENDOWMENT PROGRAM

The Montana Coal Endowment Program is designed to help address the affordability of local infrastructure projects by providing grants to lower the cost of constructing public facilities.

For fiscal year 2024, it funded Crow Tribe wastewater improvements project. The $7.6 million project is 100% grant-funded by the State and its federal partner. It will replace the gravity sewer main in Crow Agency and relocate the East Frontage Road lift station, which serves the south end of town and the hospital, but floods every spring. Funds will also be used to install an associated main connecting the lift station to the existing system.

MULTI-USE AND SHARED USE PATHS

The Montana Department of Transportation, in collaboration with tribal governments and federal agencies, is advancing several multi-use and shared-use path initiatives aimed at improving pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure across the state. Below is a summary of key projects currently underway or planned:

Ronan Urban Reconstruction Project – Flathead Reservation

This project involves the reconstruction of US 93 from Brooke Lane to Round Butte/Terrace Lake Road. Key features include:

- Conversion to a four-lane roadway
- Realignment of southbound lanes to 1st Ave SW
- Installation of sidewalks, traffic signals, and lighting
- Construction of a bike and pedestrian path
- Additional parking facilities
- Rerouting of Spring Creek beneath the roadway
- Implementation of a stormwater detention system

Northeast Poplar Multi-Use Path Approach. Montana Department of Transportation.

Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) Grant Project – Flathead Reservation

Funded through a federal NAE grant, this project focuses on improvements near the Ninepipe National Wildlife Management Area along US-93. Planned enhancements include roadway reconstruction, bridge replacements, wildlife crossing infrastructure, and a shared-use path spanning RP 41.6 to RP 44.5

Heart Butte Shared-Use Path Projects – Blackfeet Reservation

Two complementary initiatives are underway to enhance pedestrian and bicycle access in Heart Butte:

Multi-Use Path (2018 Application): A 0.7-mile path connecting the community to the local school.

Under a Transporation Alternatives project awarded in 2016, an ADA-compliant path along Heart Butte Road (BIA Route 1) and Mowitch Basin Road will link Disneyland Road to Heart Butte High School. Preliminary engineering and bid letting were completed in FY 2025. The project is fully funded by the Federal Highway Administration, with an estimated cost of $1.8 million.

Northeast Poplar Multi-Use Path – Fort Peck Indian Reservation

This initiative will construct 1.06 miles of shared-use paths in the northeast sector of Poplar, located within the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. The paths will enhance access to community buildings, local businesses, schools, and residential areas.

Funding was transferred from MDT via the Federal Highway Administration to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which will oversee project administration.

US 212 Pedestrian Path: Rabbittown to Ashland – Northern Cheyenne Reservation

A Project Specific Agreement with the Blackfeet Nation was signed on June 22, 2020, to construct a

separated pedestrian path adjacent to US 212 from RP 60.9 (Rabbittown) to RP 62.1 (Ashland). The project aims to provide a safe pedestrian corridor between residential and commercial areas and support ongoing construction activities through FY 2025.

The total estimated construction cost is $4.5 million.

RESIDENTIAL ENERGY & WEATHERIZATION

The Montana Department of Environmental Qualtiy (DEQ) is supporting the Salish and Kootenai Housing Authority (SKHA) in building residential energy auditor capacity for their Home Improvement Program and to initiate bringing administration and funding of their Weatherization Assistance Program in-house to serve Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribal members.

Thus far, two SKHA Home Improvement Program employees have attended a DEQ-sponsored Residential Energy Auditor Training and Certification Pilot Program at the Weatherization Training Center in Bozeman. These employees gained residential energy audit and building science skills. They also obtained their Building Performance Institute (BPI) Building Analyst Technician (BA-T) certifications, a critical first step in gaining credentials required to operate the Weatherization Assistance Program from within SKHA and build CSKT's residential energy auditor capacity.

MONTANA TRIBAL BROADBAND

The Montana Broadband Office (MBO) prioritized meaningful engagement with the Office of Indian Affairs throughout the implementation of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program.

In partnership with the Office of Indian Affairs, MBO also conducted outreach tailored to Tribal stakeholders to ensure access to BEAD funding opportunities.

MBO coordinated with the Office of Indian Affairs to connect BEAD applicants—both tribal and non-tribal—with state tribal liaisons.

These connections facilitated consideration of Tribal land and the initiation of consent within intersecting service areas, leading to more transparent communication around proposed project designs that include construction or operations on or near Tribal lands. This also resulted in a deeper understanding of existing service areas and sovereign priorities, as well as direct assistance for potential applicants in coordinating with appropriate Tribal authorities, when requested.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Education and workforce training change lives, open the door to greater opportunities, and allow Montanans to reach their full, outstanding potential. Providing our next generation with a high quality education and empowering our workforce with the skills they need to thrive are among our greatest responsibilities.

The State of Montana will continue working with our tribal partners to boost education opportunities, supporting tribes in protecting their cultural integrity, and educating Montanans about the rich history and contributions of our tribal neighbors.

SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION

HILLEMAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Hilleman Scholars Program at Montana State University continues to empower students through leadership, mentorship, and academic support.

MSU Hilleman Scholar Mentor Team – 2025: Featuring Angelina Toineeta and Nashantee Deputee (first row from the left). Carina Beck, Montana State University.

This year, two American Indian women—Nashantee Deputee and Angelina Toineeta—were named Lead Mentors, exemplifying the program's commitment to inclusion and Native leadership. Both juniors at MSU, they use their cultural identities and personal experiences to guide and inspire fellow scholars. Their roles highlight the impact of mentorship and the growing presence of Native women in higher education.

YOUTH SERVE MONTANA SCHOLARSHIPS

The Governor's Office of Community Service (GOCS) has a mission to promote and expand national service and community volunteerism in Montana.

In partnership with Reach Higher Montana and the Montana Campus Network for Civic Engagement, GOCS awards graduating high school seniors who have completed at least 100 hours of volunteer service with a $1,250 scholarship.

In 2025, 10 tribal students were recipients of the scholarship, which can be used at a Montana college or university. Students from rural and tribal communities are prioritized for the scholarship.

AMERICORPS NATIONAL SERVICE

GOCS grants AmeriCorps funding to five programs to engage more than 100 citizens in National Service across Montana. AmeriCorps service members meet community needs while developing as contributors, and are eligible to receive an education award to use for qualifying student loans and educational costs. AmeriCorps members serve at a variety of service locations, which provide supervision and direction to the members.

Over the last year, the state ran three programs that served in Indian Country: Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, the Montana Legal Services Association, and the Montana Campus Network for Civic Engagement. Through these programs, AmeriCorps members served at the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribal Defenders Office, Blackfeet Community College, and Chief Plenty Coups State Park.

NASA ARTEMIS ROVER OBSERVATION AND DISCOVERIES IN SPACE

The Artemis ROADS program is part of the NASA SciAct Northwest Earth and Space Science Pathways grant. ROADS invites students in grades 3-12 to model their own NASA mission, survey the landscape using LEGO robots, prepare to launch a rocket, and simulate living and working on the Moon. As part of a nationwide challenge, students can attend an event at Montana State University to showcase their work. In August of 2024, a team from Hardin won a trip to Kennedy Space Center.

Students attend the NASA Artemis Rover Observation and Discoveries in Space (ROADS) event at MSU on May 20, 2025 to showcase their work researching and mimicking NASA missions. Rab Cummings, Montana State University.

RONAN MIDDLE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

This year, the Montana Historical Society coordinated with Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes' legislators to provide enhanced educational programming for 60 students and 6 teachers from the Ronan Middle School Leadership program.

This collaboration between state and tribal representatives created expanded learning opportunities that connected tribal youth with both their cultural heritage and civic engagement through specialized programming.

NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES FOR ALL

The Montana Historical Society (MTHS) began this year to work with members of various tribal organizations to create an engaging Native American Studies for All course. This ten-week course covered topics from sovereignty to language revitalization and included guest speakers from several tribal organizations.

MTHS sponsored registration for over 100 people, many of whom work at local museums or in state government. Course evaluations showed tremendous growth of knowledge and cultural awareness among participants.

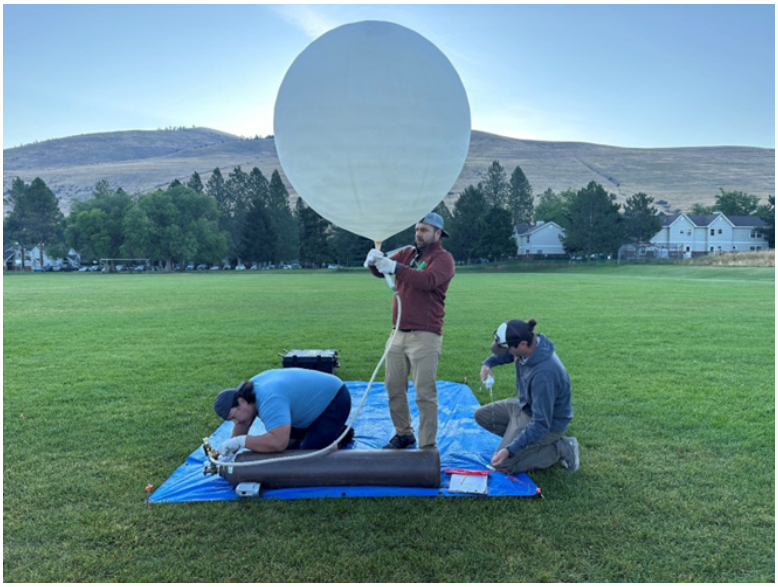
MONTANA SPACE CONSORTIUM

Montana Space Grant Consortium (MSGC) is a NASA-funded enterprise that works to strengths education in Montana in NASA-related fields.

MSGC offers a set of student and faculty opportunities geared toward hands-on projects and other effective engagement styles.

All seven of Montana's tribal colleges are a part of MSU's 23 academic affiliates, with one out of six educational partners located on an Indian reservation.

As a part of MSGC affiliation, students and faculty are eligible to participate in MSGC sponsored events.



Idaho Ballooning/Drone Campaign for NASA's FireSense Project. Meredith Hecker, Montana State University.

MONTANA YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

The Montana Youth Challenge Academy (MYCA) is a free, voluntary program for at-risk youth ages 16–18, designed by the National Guard Bureau and run by Montana's Department of Military Affairs. Located in Dillon on the University of Montana Western campus, MYCA offers a 22-week residential experience focused on academics, structure, and personal growth, followed by a year of mentorship.

A Montana Youth Challenge Academy cadet displays an award in Dillon, MT in 2024. Montana Youth Challenge.

Between July 2024 and June 2025, MYCA graduated 217 cadets, including 61 who identified as American Indian or Alaska Native. These cadets came from tribal communities across Montana, including Flathead, Blackfeet, Crow, Northern Cheyenne, Fort Peck, Fort Belknap, Little Shell Chippewa, and Rocky Boy's reservations.

STARBASE

STARBASE is the premier youth outreach program for the US Department of Defense (DoD) with the goal of developing a highly educated and skilled American workforce that can meet the advanced technological requirements of the DoD. The STARBASE "basic" program provides 25 hours of hands-on science, technology, engineering, art/design, and mathematics (STEAM) instruction to fifth grade students, while the STARBASE 'Advanced' afterschool program targets students in grades 6-8.

Montana students participate in the STARBASE program at Fort Harrison in 2024. Montana STARBASE.

From July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, STARBASE Great Falls served 798 total students in their 'basic' program, 42 of which identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native. STARBASE Great Falls provided summer camps to 17 students in Hot Springs, MT on the Flathead Reservation and 26 students in Wolf Point, MT on the Fort Peck Reservation, as well as partnered with the Rocky Boy/Stone Child College Library for their summer reading program events to provide STEAM activities to 14 students.

STARBASE Fort Harrison serves every 5th grade class in the Helena Public School District, offers STEAM outreach to out-of-district schools, and has STARBASE Advanced afterschool programs to local middle schools. From July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, STARBASE Great Falls served 863 total students in their 'basic' program, 45 of which identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native. STARBASE Fort Harrison partners with the Helena Indian Alliance (HIA) to host a summer program for tribal youth in and around Helena, serving 31 students in 2025.

HIGHER EDUCATION

MSU BILLINGS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Throughout the 2025 academic year, the Montana State University Billings (MSUB) College of Business (COB) engaged in a series of efforts to strengthen state-tribal relations and expand educational access for Native students.

On August 17, 2024, COB participated in a signing ceremony at Little Big Horn College (LBHC) to formalize an articulation agreement that streamlines the transfer process for LBHC students pursuing a bachelor's degree at MSUB. In addition, the COB hosted a 2+2 Conference on the MSUB campus from October 3–4, 2025, welcoming partners from across the state. As part of the conference, the College of Business hosted a lunch for 10 LBHC transfer students at the MSUB Rimrock Café.

COB also scheduled direct recruitment visits to Chief Dull Knife College on November 22, 2024. The College also participated in the Native American Business Summit hosted on the MSUB campus on April 3, 2025, and a strategic planning session with the MSUB Registrar's Office to review and prioritize articulation agreements that are outdated or unformalized, setting a roadmap for 2025–2026.

RELATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

Montana State University Billings (MSUB) established the Native Student Financial Aid Navigator in 2024 through grant funding to strengthen state-tribal relations by supporting Native American student success.

Housed in the Financial Aid & Scholarships Office, the Navigator works in close collaboration with the Native American Achievement Center (NAAC). Its purpose is to improve access to financial aid resources, helping Native students navigate complex financial systems while increasing retention and graduation rates. The initiative has become a model for targeted student support, with accomplishments including one-on-one advising, increased FAFSA completion rates, expanded outreach to tribal communities, and tailored financial literacy workshops.

Major partners include the NAAC, MSUB Student Support Services, and tribal education offices. Since its launch, the position has served over 157 students and contributed significantly to MSUB's broader mission of equity and inclusion. The role is currently funded through a grant with an annual cost of approximately $60,000 and is expected to continue through at least 2026.

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA - NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT

Since 2015, the University of Montana's Anthropological Collections Facility (UMACF) and Native American Graves and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) teams have worked in close partnership with Tribal cultural heritage stewards from the Rocky Mountain and Plains regions. Through annual Tribal Historic Preservation Officer/Collections Summits, UM has developed standards for heritage collections management. These Summits laid the groundwork for the formation of the University's first Heritage Collections Board (UMHCB), a Tribal-guided body that now informs daily decision-making and long-term planning.

The Board has helped UM move beyond compliance toward reconciliation. In 2025, the Provost's Office invested $20,000 in the NAGPRA Coordinator's budget.

University of Montana Heritage Collections Board Annual Meeting. UM Anthropological Collections.

MSU-BILLINGS: PRE-SERVICE TEACHER CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

The Pre-Service Teachers Cultural Experience enhances pre-service teachers' (PSTs) experiences with schools housed within the reservation. It also supports Native American MSUB students by providing cultural enhancements to current campus activities.

PSTs visit the school in Pryor at least once a month and work beside Dr. Elaine Westbrook in the Makerspace, or PSTs provide STEM activities to the school's students. Dr. Westbrook also participated in a buffalo harvest that provided students with harvesting cultural practices, buffalo feed for Pryor's school, and buffalo meat for the Native American Achievement Center to feed the students who visit there.

STAR STORIES: NORTHERN CHEYENNE PLANETARIUM

MSU-Billings focused this year on an intergrative planetarium experience featuring audio of Northern Cheyenne star stories, subtitles in English and Northern Cheyenne while viewing a projection of the night sky and Northern Cheyenne story artwork in an inflatable planetarium.

A Star Stories event in Busby, Montana. MSU-Billings.

This framework of Indigenous and Western astronomy knowledge will give participants an immersive cultural experience while preserving the Northern Cheyenne language and culture for future generations. Recently, work is focused on creating a video with art to accompany the audio. Additionally, in partnership with MSU and Chief Dull Knife College, a notebook featuring cover art from the story was created, which will be widely distributed alongside the screening of the planetarium video.

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA: MONTANA MEDIA LAB

The Montana Media Lab Youth Voices Program teaches teens from Indigenous communities to tell their own stories through journalism. The purpose of this program is to empower young people with storytelling, communication, and career readiness tools.

The Montana Media Lab taught four workshops where Indigenous youth were served. These included a journalism summer camp at the University of Montana (July 2024), school-based workshops at Two Eagle River School (October and November 2024) and Arlee High School (May 2025), and a summer audio journalism workshop at Chief Dull Knife Tribal College (June 2025). 49 students were served and received 90 hours of hands-on instruction and produced 5 professional-quality stories for media outlets. In the last year, private donations from foundations helped fund the $150,000 program.

Arlee High School students interview Jamila James about the opening of a new community center, Auntie's Emporium, during a Montana Media Lab Workshop. University of Montana.

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA: NIKE N7 BASKETBALL

The Griz basketball teams played in customized turquoise uniforms designed by an Indigenous artist who was awarded the Nike N7 inspired contract for the year. Additional in-game elements also celebrated Native American history in the State of Montana. This year, NFL speaker Levi Horn also did a free lecture series.

Officially licensed Nike Griz retail is available for sale through the GoGrizStore, The M Store, Scheels, and Universal Athletics locally as well as Dicks Sporting Goods in Spokane. These proceeds go directly to support The University of Montana's Kyiyo Pow Wow.

Children dancing during halftime at a University of Montana basketball game. University of Montana.

The N7 program is a Nike initiative, led by Fort Peck native Sam McCracken, that shows Nike's long-time commitment and mission to inspire and enable 2 million Native American and Indigenous youth in North America to participate in sport and physical activity. Nike's investments, through the N7 Fund, have totaled over $10.8 million to nearly 300 organizations since 2009. The partnership has resulted in $5,000 donated to the Kyiyo Pow Wow each year.

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA: BLACKFEET ECO KNOWLEDGE

The Blackfeet Virtual Reality Initiative aims to revitalize and preserve Blackfoot culture, language, and ecological knowledge through immersive Extended Reality (XR) technologies, while also serving as a replicable model for other tribal preservation efforts through XR-based educational platforms. This state-tribal collaboration—led by Blackfeet Eco Knowledge (BEK) in partnership with the University of Montana (UM), Arizona State University (ASU), and Dreamscape Learn—aims to co-create culturally grounded XR learning modules that authentically reflect Blackfoot ways of knowing and worldviews. Supporting both place-based and digital learning environments, the initiative plans to secure funding from university and philanthropic sources to advance its pedagogical vision, development efforts, and infrastructure.

Major accomplishments to date include the development of a comprehensive proposal and detailed budget plan outlining the design of a high-fidelity Blackfoot Buffalo Jump VR experience, the launch of a Learning Sciences Hub at UM, and initial co-design engagements with Blackfoot Elders to ensure cultural accuracy and community leadership. With plans to base the project on the UM campus in Missoula, this initiative continues to grow as a promising model for building educational infrastructure that honors tribal knowledge and fosters meaningful collaboration.

Provost Lawrence at ASU's Dream Scape Learn. University of Montana.

MSU-NORTHERN - NATIVE STUDENT ORIENTATION

The Little River Institute at MSU-Northern welcomed students and their families to campus during Native American Pre-Orientation on August 20, 2024.

Native American Student Pre-Orientation Brightspace Session. MSU-Northern.

The orientation included a Brightspace session and a session with the Director of Financial Aid. Students and families were also able to meet faculty and staff from across campus who work to support their academic success.

ACCELERATE MONTANA AND UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Accelerate Montana (AMT) advances economic prosperity through workforce and economic development initiatives. This year's accomplishments included:

Indigenous Outreach & Native Women Launch

- Promoted Native Women Launch (NWL) statewide through events and partnerships
- Provided entrepreneurial support to Native businesses
- Next Gen Matriarchs Podcast: Hosted by Mariah Omeasoo (Blackfeet), featuring Indigenous women leaders in entrepreneurship and wellness
- Big Sky IndigiFest 2024: Co-hosted by Native Women Launch, featuring panels, fashion gala, and small business workshops
- Women in Business Summit 2025: Sponsored by AMT, engaging 300+ attendees in leadership and entrepreneurship

Big Sky IndigiFest & Fashion Gala (Sept 5–6, 2024)

- Co-hosted the second annual celebration of Indigenous culture
- Moderated a panel with Indigenous businesswomen
- Promoted NWL via an informational booth
- Supported the fashion show and small business workshops

Women in Business Summit (March 2025)

- Sponsored the Montana Chamber's statewide summit celebrating women in business
- Engaged ~300 attendees, including Indigenous and non-Indigenous women
- Focused on leadership, entrepreneurship, financial wellness, and advocacy

Native Women Launch Network & NACDC Partnership

- Online Community Launched (May 2025): 100+ Indigenous women entrepreneurs joined in first month
- NACDC Partnership: Supporting Native finance workforce across MT, WY, ND, and SD with four online courses

Workforce & Innovation Initiatives

- Gitlab Green Jobs Grant: Partnering with Salish Kootenai College to deliver sustainable job training for tribal nations
- SkillsFWD Grant: Translating Blackfoot cultural values into workplace competencies; pilot begins Aug 2025
- Job Site Ready Mobile Trainings: Delivered hands-on construction training to 24 participants in Fort Peck, Pryor, and Browning
- NSF I-Corps Program: Expanding entrepreneurial training and innovation access for Tribal communities

Rural Innovation & Finance Access (AMRII)

- Partnered with Mountain Plains Native Community Development Financial Institutions Coalition to improve capital access
- Released key findings via podcast and presented at 2024 Data Summit
- Exploring creation of a Rural Business Investment Company (RBIC) for Native-owned businesses

APEX Accelerator Impact

- Provided 60+ hours of no-cost counseling to 25 Tribal clients
- Secured $3.5M in contract awards across 76 awards
- S&K Federal Services LLC received $1.9M in 15 awards since Dec 2024

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY - HEART

The HEART project's purpose was to improve well-being and school success of elementary students living on the Fort Peck Indian reservation. It is a classroom level intervention designed to reduce health and education disparities among the community's youth.

This project was built upon community suggestions to create a program which improved health and well-being among young people living on the reservation. This program helped the young community members' ideas and self-expression of wellbeing to grow foster elementary-aged students' resilience by promoting self-expression in the classroom.

The interventions in the short term improved student resiliency resulting in a reduction of school absenteeism, decreased behavioral incidents, and decreased visits to the school health clinic by students suffering from somatic symptoms rooted in anxiety and depression.

Vital components of the program included monthly activities in which students were guided by community Elders and cultural experts, and a nurse practitioner in the creation of artwork that reflects students' development and understanding of well-being, self-identity, resiliency, and coping. The program also supported professional development for teachers, who were coached to facilitate student-teacher relationships and culturally responsive strategies into their classroom routines.

A fifth grade student participates in a monthly HEART session. Montana State University.

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY - AMERICAN INDIAN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING OUTREACH

For the third consecutive year, MSU Academic Technology and Outreach (ATO) coordinated a spring break outreach trip of the MSU American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES).

This year, five MSU Native students volunteered three days of their spring break to visit schools on the Rocky Boy and Fort Belknap Reservations. ATO used NASA grant funds to support AISES travel and worked with the students to plan educational activities related to NASA science and engineering. While at the schools, AISES students worked with youth to teach them how to use block computer coding to fly drones through an obstacle course, try activities that demonstrate how NASA uses different ranges of the electromagnetic spectrum to gather information about stars, and learn about the Sun while creating bracelets that contain UV color-changing beads. AISES students also talked with students about being STEM college students.

MSU leveraged federal NASA funds. AISES students worked with a total of approximately 150 students – 90 students in Harlem and Hays-Lodgepole Elementary Schools, and 60 students at Box Elder Elementary.

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY - TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As part of a National Institutes of Health-funded project called My Home, My Health, MSU offered a 6-month-long teacher professional development course. Middle school teachers were trained on how to use place-based, Indian Education for All-connected, activity kits and science lessons. The purpose of the project is to attract youth to STEM careers, and develop educators' understanding of how to engage students in place-based disease ecology investigations.

Eight teachers from Hardin and Crow Agency serving around 365 students and one teacher from the Flathead Reservation serving 250 students, participated in the professional development course. Each teacher received $500 worth of science supplies to take back to their classrooms. Students and faculty at Blackfeet Community College and Salish Kootenai College have created lessons for the 2025-2026 year if the NIH funding continues. Currently, MSU has not received the funding for the next year of the project.

Community Based Learning
Students make their own maps showing where the Little Bighorn river begin. It begins in the Bighorn Mountains under Duncum Mountain and Burnt Mountain. The main stream flows through a deep canyon, through the plains and into Montana. The river is filled with by streams and flows through Lodge Grass and Wyola as it makes its way to Crow Agency where it will eventually meet up with the Bighorn River, Yellowstone, and eventually the Missouri. We really focused on how what is happening upstream affects us down stream.
MONTANA

Connie Michael, teacher at Crow Agency School, reports on how she used the place-based disease ecology lessons with her students at the Montana Environmental Educators Association conference in Helena. Montana State University.

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY - GEAR UP TEACHER TRAINING

In a new partnership with the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, MSU Academic Technology & Outreach began a 3-day summer professional development opportunity for 10 middle school teachers from GEAR-UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) schools. The teachers worked with MSU faculty and staff to gain training in standards-based lessons and practices for increasing youth interest in science. The program will run for seven years.

Teachers who attended this professional development will be awarded funds to help bring their students on a field trip to MSU. While on campus, students will experience a college campus, visit labs, meet with faculty and students, and participate in hands-on science activities.

Middle school teachers at a GEAR UP professional development session at Montana State University tour the MSU American Indian Hall. Montana State University.

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY - ANNUAL TRIBAL COLLEGE LIBRARIANS INSTITUTE

In June of 2025, the annual Tribal College Librarians Institute (TCLI) celebrated its 35th year anniversary of providing specific and targeted learning for tribal colleges and communities across Montana, the United States, and Canada. TCLI is a unique experience and the only professional conference of its kind, specifically geared towards enhancing learning and skills for tribal colleges and communities, held at Montana State University each year. Many tribal college libraries serve as community/public libraries, meeting the needs of the college as well as the needs of all members of the tribal community including holding and restoring archives and ancestral knowledge.

Attendees at the annual Tribal College Librarians Institute. Montana State University.

Montana State University Library sought grant funding to cover the cost of the institute, which includes travel stipends for participants, housing, food, and speaker costs. The MSU Library team works with a TCLI Advisory Board, made up of members of the tribal community at large, to organize and create a dynamic conference each year.

The agenda for the conference comes from topics requested by participants as well as seeking out proposals from higher education institutions. The 2025 conference covered topics including early literacy programming, Indigenous cultural understanding framework, telemedicine in tribal and rural libraries, responsible use of artificial intelligence in libraries and instruction, STEM opportunities, capturing oral histories, and more. Participants also learned how to draft and create seed grant applications to apply what they learned in their communities. MSU partnered with the National Network of Libraries Medicine, EBSCO, Mellon Foundation, and private donors to provide this year's institute.

CIVIC AND CULTURAL EDUCATION

CAPITOL TOURS

The Montana Historical Society facilitated comprehensive civic education opportunities for tribal youth and advocates through multiple specialized Capitol tour programs throughout the year, serving nearly 150 participants from reservations across Montana.

Students from Chief Plenty Coup High School visit the Montana State Capitol. Montana Historical Society.

MTHS staff coordinated with Western Native Voice to provide Capitol tours for 60 advocates from the Blackfeet, Fort Belknap, Crow, Flathead, Northern Cheyenne, and Fort Peck Reservations during the legislative session, while also partnering with the Office of Public Instruction and the American Indian Caucus to host 42 Indigenous students for the Resilience in Something Else (RISE) Tribal Education Summit. Additional partnerships with Forward Montana brought 27 Indigenous students and adults for Capitol and Supreme Court tours, and MTHS provided field trip grants and coordinated visits for 30 students and staff from Chief Plenty Coups High School, including participation in the Pretty Shield Ceremony at the Capitol.

TRIBAL FLAG PLAZA BROCHURE

The Montana Historical Society worked with members of its Tribal Stakeholders Group to create a brochure explaining the iconography of the flags displayed at Tribal Flag Plaza. 20,0000 copies of the brochure were printed to be distributed to visitors at the Montana State Capitol.

Montana State Capitol. Montana Historical Society.

GREAT FALLS COLLEGE - NEW CENTER FOR NATIVE AND Indigenous STUDENTS

Great Falls College began planning a new space for Native and Indigenous students when the new dental clinic opened in Spring 2023.

Over the next 18 months, the vision became a reality. The space opened for Spring Semester 2025, and the open house was held February 5, 2025. Students were welcomed with a full kitchen, two private study rooms, a gathering area, and a children's room. The Native American Student Ambassador, Calvin Gone, and work-study student, Teddie Lopez, created a welcoming space for all students.

The Native American Student Group was tasked with renaming the space and chose The Native + Indigenous Cultural Center. As the center was being completed, the student ambassador and staff met with the Campus Community Committee to develop a campus smudging policy. As a result of their hard work, students can smudge in the Native + Indigenous Cultural Center whenever they desire.

Calvin Gone,Student Ambassador, Stephanie Erdmann, Dean/ CEO, and Teddie Lopez, Work Study student, attend the Great Falls College Native + Indigenous Center Open House. Great Falls College.

GREAT FALLS COLLEGE - SWEETGRASS PLANTING

To further support Native students, Calvin Gone and Teddie Lopez recognized the importance of having sweetgrass on campus for both ceremonial and healing purposes.

Great Falls College students and staff plant sweetgrass. Great Falls College.

Together, they collaborated with Brian Tucker and the Build Montana cohorts from Great Falls Public Schools and Great Falls College. Tucker and students built beautiful wooden planter boxes to grow sweetgrass and sage. Members of the student body, faculty, and staff helped with the transplant process on April 30, and a ribbon-cutting was held May 7, 2025.

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

The Montana Historical Society supported tribal student participation in National History Day, with students from the Blackfeet, Assiniboine, Sioux, and Chippewa Cree tribes advancing through regional and state competitions to represent Montana at the national contest in College Park, Maryland. Between state and national competitions, MTHS staff provided specialized coaching to these students and their teachers help strengthen their research projects for national-level competition.

The five tribal students joined nearly 3,000 participants from across the country and toured the Library of Congress, Capitol Hill, the Supreme Court, and Smithsonian museums, as well as meetings with the members of the congressional delegation.

Students from Frontier School in Wolf Point meet with Senators Tim Sheehy and Steve Daines as part of the National History Day competition. Montana Historical Society.

INDIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL

The Office of Public Instruction's (OPI) Indian Education for All (IEFA) unit provides high-quality instructional materials and resources for teachers across Montana. It has developed a comprehensive curriculum mapping template, updated the IEFA courses on the Teacher Learning Hub to reflect current field needs and best practices, and maintains a robust IEFA YouTube channel with 310 videos and over 50,000 views.

IEFA launched the Indigenous Morning Greeting Project. This cross-tribal classroom tool promotes language and cultural appreciation. These greetings are available on OPI's YouTube channel. IEFA also hosted the annual Best Practices Conference in April 2025, welcoming over 200 attendees and featuring 47 sessions.

The Tribal Student Achievement and Relations Unit builds relationships between OPI, Montana school districts, and their communities. Incorporating tribal input, sharing resources, and building connections through consultation and sovereign government-to-government relationships on matters affecting American Indian students helps create the conditions necessary for American Indian students to meet their goals.

The 2025 RISE Tribal Education Summit was held in East Helena in April 2025. The Summit brought together school staff and students from 16 different schools and seven Knowledge Keepers to support share resources and build connections. This year, students participating in the RISE Native Student Leadership group selected the Summit theme of "Wisdom from our ancestors: Hope and purpose for our future".

The Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE) meetings are coordinated by OPI and include representation from the Board of Public Education (BPE) as well as all tribal nations. These gatherings serve as vital opportunities for tribal governments, elders, students, and parents to provide input in the development of curriculum and standards. MACIE's budget has increased, allowing for expanded engagement, outreach, and support for this essential work.

MACIE regional meetings also emphasize the importance of incorporating tribal cultural practices and identifying best practices in education to support Native American students. This collaborative process is critical not only for advancing academic outcomes for Native students but also for ensuring IEFA is meaningfully integrated across classrooms for the benefit of all Montana students.

MSU-NORTHERN MOCCASIN MAKING

MSU-Northern hosted a series of Moccasin Making Workshops at its Little River Institute in honor of National Native American Heritage Month. These workshops were followed up by student and staff participation in Rock your Mocs Week (November 10 – 16, 2024).

Moccasin Making Workshops at Little River Institute. MSU-Northern.

MSU-NORTHERN TRADITIONAL GAMES

The Montana Historical Society collaborated with the International Traditional Games Society and tribal trainers from the Northern Cheyenne, Salish, Kootenai, Blackfeet, and Little Shell tribes to receive training in traditional games and culture to incorporate games into programming offerings.

Participants learn traditional Native American games. Montana Historical Society.

GREAT FALLS COLLEGE 2025 EAGLE FEATHER CEREMONY

To culminate their final year at Great Falls College, students were provided mortar boards for beading and fourteen graduating Native and Indigenous students were honored during the 2025 Eagle Feather Ceremony.

Dugan Coburn, Director of Indigenous Education with Great Falls Public Schools blessed the eagle feathers and led the honor ceremony. Calvin Gone, a Student Ambassador and graduate, sang the Honor Song for the 2025 ceremony.

Calvin Gone, Native American Student Ambassador, receives his Eagle Feather. Great Falls College.

HERITAGE CENTER TRIBAL STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATION

The Montana Historical Society engaged extensively with its Tribal Stakeholders Group to ensure culturally appropriate and authentic representation in the development of major new exhibits and spaces at the Montana Heritage Center, including the Montana Homeland Gallery, Smudge Room, East Arbor, and Heritage Trail.

Major Robinson consults with a construction worker during the construction of the Montana Heritage Center. Montana Historical Society.

This comprehensive consultation process involved tribal members in all aspects of exhibit development, from artifact selection and written content review to approving narratives, graphics, illustrations, and photographs that tell Montana's Indigenous stories. Additionally, the Tribal Stakeholders Group helped identify qualified Indigenous consultants to participate in the media components of the Homeland Gallery, ensuring authentic voices and perspectives are featured throughout the exhibits.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMMING

The Montana Historical Society collaborated with tribal members this year to promote cultural awareness through public programming initiatives that celebrated Indigenous heritage and history.

The Society inducted Pretty Shield into the Gallery of Outstanding Montanans, recognizing her significant contributions to Montana's cultural legacy, while also hosting two educational programs on Indigenous foodways that shared traditional knowledge about Native food systems and practices.

The Society also presented a talk about Little Shell history, providing the public with greater understanding of this important tribal community.

Two drummers perform at Pretty Shield ceremony. Montana Historical Society.

FILM OFFICE MUSIC VIDEO SHOOT ON BLACKFEET RESERVATION

In May 2025, the Montana Department of Commerce assisted with a music video project filmed on the Blackfeet Reservation with the assistance of the Blackfeet Buffalo Program, tribal leaders, the Indigenous Led Foundation and the artist Yo-Yo Ma. This piece used the Blackfeet buffalo herd and the wide expanses of the Blackfeet Reservation to create a video that will be released in October 2025.

Buffalo grazing on the Blackfeet Reservation during a filmed musical video project. Montana Department of Commerce.

Crew members from the area and around Montana assisted the production crew to capture the Montana landscape, working with the live music created by Yo-Yo Ma on location. The Montana Department of Commerce Film Office scouted with creator Elias Gallegos in eastern Montana in 2024 to orient him to the state and assisted in March and April 2025 with additional scouting and logistics for the shoot.

HORSE CULTURE AND HORSE PAINTING

To celebrate Native American Heritage Month and Celebrate Ag, MSU hosted Horse Culture and Horse Painting. Presentations were made by the Blackfeet, Crow, and Northern Arapaho about their role in community and tribal wellbeing. Following the presentations, there was a parade of horses painted and adorned in regalia down Centennial Mall.

Horse painting event in Regalia. Montana State University.

HONORING TRIBAL HERITAGE

HISTORY CONFERENCE: LITTLE SHELL

The Montana Historical Society facilitated a Little Shell Tribe tour during the 51st annual Montana History Conference, led by Montana Poet Laureate and Little Shell tribal member Chris La Tray alongside Little Shell Tribe Secretary/Treasurer Colleen Hill.

Conference participants gained firsthand insight into the tribe's history and future aspirations through visits to tribal headquarters, the historic Hill 57 area, and Mount Royal, where they experienced a traditional drum performance at the tribe's new powwow arbor.

This immersive cultural experience promoted deeper understanding of the Little Shell Tribe's heritage while supporting cultural tourism and educational outreach.

Chris La Tray speaks at the Montana History Conference. Montana Historical Society.

ANTIQUITIES DATABASE AGREEMENT

The State Historic Preservation Office met with State Senator Jonathan Windy Boy to discuss its antiquities database and its potential benefits for tribal cultural resource management.

Through ongoing communication with the Rocky Boy Tribal Historic Preservation Office, the parties reached a cooperative agreement that provides the Tribe with free access to the state's antiquities database.

MONTANA BURIAL PRESERVATION BOARD

The Montana Burial Preservation Board, with staffing support from the SHPO, continued its critical work protecting and repatriating Native American ancestral remains, currently managing over 25 active cases with several new appointees joining the Board since July 2024.

The Board successfully coordinated the reburial of two sets of remains last year, returning ancestors to their tribal communities.

NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION

This year, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) collaborated with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe to research, document, and nominate Head Chief-Young Mule Bravery Charge Site for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

This cooperative effort between state and tribal preservation professionals ensures that this culturally significant site receives federal recognition and protection while honoring Northern Cheyenne heritage and history.

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

The SHPO participated in the Traditional Cultural Properties Subcommittee alongside federal agencies, other state historic preservation offices, and Tribal Nations. This partnership focuses on ensuring that properties are documented and recorded in appropriate ways that respect tribal perspectives. The annual meeting provided an opportunity for Montana to contribute to and benefit from shared best practices in cultural resource management while strengthening relationships with tribal partners.

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY - CHEYENNE CREATION STORY

Seniors in the MSU Film & Photography program worked together to create a short documentary focused on telling the Cheyenne Creation Story in the Native language.

Together, the students worked to crowdfund the necessary funding, coordinate interviews, and find native artists to create custom art pieces to include in the film. The film was directed by Nellie Whiteman and produced by Maddison Whitaker-Barnett. Anna Bouressa was the director of photography, Simon Gatte worked as the sound recordist, while Carter Hudson was the editor.

Behind the scenes of the interview with Phillip Whiteman Montana State University.

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY - INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE TO NEW ZEALAND

The Indigenous Knowledge Exchange to Aotearoa (New Zealand) was a short-term faculty led study abroad exchange designed to provide faculty and students from Montana State University an opportunity to engage in a culturally immersive study abroad program grounded in Indigenous methodologies.

Steven Davis, Dr. Sweeney Windchief, Desiree Taylor, James Vallie, Sky Wernik, Twila Yellow Horse, Olivia Wheeler, Madisan Chavez in Hamilton, New Zealand. Montana State University.

Through shared experiences such as Marae stays, language and weaving lessons, visits to tribal-run businesses, and exchanges with Māori scholars and students, participants deepened their understanding of Indigenous sovereignty, education, and community-building practices in a global context. The 2025 program included a cohort of 20 participants, including several American Indian students and faculty from Montana State University.

LIFE-LONG LEARNING AT TRIBAL COLLEGE LIBRARIES

In 2023, Governor Gianforte signed House Bill 91, extending state aid to tribal college libraries that meet public library standards—a first in Montana history. By FY 2025, four libraries—Woodenlegs Library, Stone Child College Library, James E. Shanley Tribal Library, and Aaniiih Nakoda College Library—received their inaugural funding, marking a major step in honoring tribal heritage and advancing education.

Children select a picture book to bring home at the children's powwow celebrating the culmination of their summer reading program at the Woodenlegs Library in Northern Cheyenne. Woodenlegs Library.

At Woodenlegs Library, the impact was immediate. The Sisters Sewing Circle created 60 regalia pieces for Head Start students, while summer events documented oral traditions and culminated in a children's powwow with 154 attendees and 658 books distributed. Stone Child College and Rocky Boy Public Library launched summer reading programs under the theme "Color Our World," engaging children and families in art, storytelling, and literacy.

This first round of state aid has strengthened intergenerational learning, supported cultural preservation, and deepened partnerships between Montana and its tribal nations.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE

The path to greater opportunity and more good-paying jobs across Montana, including in Indian Country, includes conserving our environment and responsibly developing our natural resources. The State of Montana will continue collaborating with Tribal Nations to promote conservation, manage wildlife, responsibly develop our natural resources, and preserve the beauty of our natural landscape for future generations.

PROMOTING PUBLIC ACCESS

Increasing public access to public lands is a top priority for Governor Gianforte. Since the governor took office, the State of Montana has expanded access to more than 100,000 acres of public lands.

HABITAT CONSERVATION LEASES

As chair of the Montana Land Board, Governor Greg Gianforte led the state's purchase of more than 50,000 acres of habitat conservation leases (HCL) in August 2024 to increase public access, keep agricultural land in production, and conserve prairie habitats.

Approved Habitat Conservation Leases

Habitat Conservation Lease	Term	Total Acres	Total Payment
A. Denim Fogle	40 yrs	7,791	$862,869.00
B. B&C French	40 yrs	11,612	$1,381,828.00
C. Hartman Land & Livestock	40 yrs	1,526	$166,735.81
D. Gregg Ranch	40 yrs	3,825	$428,000.00
E. Rebecca Heberle	40 yrs	8,507	$1,012,333.00
F. Barbara & David Maus	40 yrs	3,368	$346,885.00
G. Swede & Shirley Pfaffinger	40 yrs	7,915	$1,091,340.00
H. Tooke Ranch	40 yrs	7,091	$787,423.00

MONTANA **FWP**

COLLABORATING WITH TRIBAL PARTNERS

Partnerships with tribal governments are a cornerstone of Montana's approach to fish and wildlife management. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) and the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) work closely with tribal natural resource departments to co-manage fish and wildlife populations both on and off reservations. These partnerships also expand educational opportunities, including archery and cultural programs that connect Native youth to traditional knowledge and outdoor skills.

ARCHERY IN SCHOOLS

FWP plays a key role in expanding outdoor education through programs like the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP).

All tribal communities are invited to participate, with FWP providing teacher training and helping schools secure funding for equipment. Last year, nearly 13,000 students statewide participated in NASP.

The agency also coordinated teacher trainings, offering educators free curriculum and the opportunity to earn OPI credits. In the past year alone, more than 600 teachers participated, including educators from Browning, Wolf Point, Poplar, Polson, Hardin, Pryor, and many other reservation communities.

Arrows at a National Archery in the Schools event. Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.

CROW TRIBE COLLABORATION

FWP staff in Region 5 began efforts this year to build working relationships with the Crow Tribe to discuss current fish and wildlife biological and enforcement activities by sharing questions, needs, and expectations. The meeting helped to continue work to develop a data sharing and wildlife management memorandum of understanding (MOU) and the potential to create another MOU to facilitate fishing and hunting license sales for the tribe.

Winter meeting of the Crow Tribe and Regional Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Natural Resource Joint Meeting. Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.

Shared wildlife and fisheries management objectives with the Crow Tribe and FWP include wildlife disease management such as CWD, sheep pneumonia.

CHIEF DULL KNIFE WATER MONITORING

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks continued to support summer water quality research at Tongue River Reservoir by providing campsites with electricity, water, and septic services for students from Chief Dull Knife College.

The students camp at the park while conducting water sampling and drone photography to study the reservoir's health and conditions throughout the season.

Students working on water monitoring at Tongue River Reservoir. Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.

GRIZZLY BEAR MONITORING

The Blackfeet, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT), Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP), and Glacier National Park share data and information on grizzly bear captures, mortality, movements, reproduction, survival, and conflict response to evaluate grizzly bear population trends in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem and fulfill other research and reporting needs.

TRUMPETER SWAN SURVEYS

FWP and CSKT collaborate on Trumpeter Swan surveys in Northwestern Montana.

CSKT typically takes the lead on conducting swan surveys both within and outside of the reservation. CSKT has experience and a great history with swan recovery and management that FWP continually utilize.

Bison. Montana Department of Commerce.

BRUCELLOSIS PREVENTION

FWP, in partnership with the Montana Department of Livestock and the Crow Tribe, has been laying the groundwork for brucellosis monitoring on the Crow Reservation—an effort that marks the first study of the disease in this area. Brucellosis, a bacterial disease affecting elk, bison, and cattle, has long been a concern for wildlife and livestock managers, but its presence within reservation elk herds has never been evaluated.

Building on this foundation, the partners will launch a full-scale monitoring project in winter 2026 to determine whether brucellosis is present and to better understand its potential impact. The project will focus on two key goals: evaluating the prevalence and spatial extent of brucellosis exposure in elk populations, and documenting elk movements to assess overlap with livestock and interchange between herds.

During January and February, adult female elk will be captured using helicopter net-gunning, with blood samples collected to screen for antibodies. Up to 30 elk will also be fitted with GPS collars to track seasonal range use and migration corridors. This movement data will be critical not only for assessing transmission risk but also for supporting the Crow Tribe's wildlife management efforts. The project is primarily funded by the Department of Livestock through a grant from the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

MONITORING BATS FOR WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME

FWP is leading a collaborative effort to monitor and understand the spread of white-nose syndrome (WNS), a deadly disease that has caused dramatic declines in bat populations across North America. Working alongside the U.S. Geological Survey, the Montana Natural Heritage Program (NHP), and tribal partners like CSKT, FWP is conducting statewide surveillance and acoustic monitoring to track the disease and its impact on Montana's bats.

Since 2016, FWP and NHP have partnered with CSKT biologists to sample bats hibernating in Lick Cave—one of Montana's six largest known hibernacula. Although WNS was first detected in Montana in 2021, it has not yet been found in Lick Cave. CSKT biologists also contribute annual acoustic data from two NABat cells, which feed into collaborative models assessing bat activity and occupancy.

This ongoing work helps FWP answer critical questions about disease dynamics, assess risks to species like the northern long-eared bat and little brown myotis—both under consideration for Endangered Species Act protection—and guide conservation strategies aimed at keeping Montana's bat populations healthy and off the endangered list.

STATE PARKS AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has a long history of collaboration with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, particularly the Selis Qlispe Culture Committee. Western Montana is home to several important sites for CSKT heritage and culture, including Travelers' Rest State Park.

Traveler's Rest State Park.
Montana Department of Commerce.

This past year, FWP coordinated field trip activities with more than 1,000 CSKT students who use the time in the field as part of their curriculum. Additionally, the state park hosts weekly programs throughout the summer to highlight the CSKT heritage at the park.

Other parks that have incorporated programing from the Culture Committee include Council Grove State Park, Fort Owen State Park, and Milltown State Park

WILDLIFE MITIGATION CONSERVATION EASEMENT

The Wildlife Mitigation Program supported a conservation easement on the Flathead Indian Reservation by funding due diligence costs, helping reduce expenses for landowners. The easement protects 0.3 miles of Mollman Creek and 10.3 acres of wetlands, adjacent to 2,400 acres of tribal conservation land near Kicking Horse Reservoir and Waterfowl Production Area.

This property connects to over 18,000 acres of protected habitat, including the Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge, multiple Waterfowl Production Areas, State Wildlife Management Areas, and tribal lands. It provides essential habitat for grizzly bears, black bears, bobcats, mountain lions, white-tailed deer, and 96 bird species—21 of which are conservation priorities.

A Hungarian Partridge in Glacier County.
Montana Department of Commerce.

WATER & FORESTRY

Montana continues to strengthen its partnerships with tribal nations to protect and manage vital natural resources, with a strong focus on water rights and forest stewardship. Through the Montana Forest Action Plan, the State collaborates with tribal nations to restore forest health and reduce wildfire risk. The State's efforts reflect Montana's commitment to manage resources through intergovernmental collaboration with tribal lands and people.

MILLTOWN WATER RIGHT

The Milltown Water Right, once a privately owned hydropower right at the former Milltown Dam site near Bonner, is now in public ownership and became enforceable on April 24, 2025. For over 100 years, the Milltown Water Right was used to supply power generation to the Bonner lumber mill. The water right is now co-owned by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) and will be managed for the purpose of instream fishery.

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Director Chrisy Clark addresses a meeting of the Milltown Work Group. Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.

The Milltown Work Group, which included members from FWP, CSKT, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, and the Natural Resource Damage Program, worked together over several years to develop the implementation framework for the right. In April, the Final Milltown Implementation Framework was released to the public. This was followed by three public meetings in Deer Lodge, Ovando and Drummond. Staff from both FWP and CSKT walked through the framework and answered a number of questions from the public.

CSKT and FWP will continue to work with water users to set goals for stream conditions and develop localized water management plans this year and into the future, and are asking for those that would like assistance with local water planning to reach out to the department.

IMPROVING VEGETATION ON REAVIS CREEK

In the fall of 2024, Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) awarded a $40,000 grant to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes to reduce sediment inputs and improve altered streamside vegetation on Revais Creek, located on the Flathead Reservation.

This work is part of a larger project that has removed approximately 2,000 cubic yards of mine tailing waste material and established a 0.8-acre riparian area along the creek with revegetation and fencing to protect from grazing and browse impacts.

The impacts of the work include reduction of the downstream contamination, improvement in riparian health, and reduction of groundwater pollution and leaching into Revais Creek. The project is funded in part by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC).

A scenic view of the Flathead Reservation. Montana Department of Commerce.

FORT BELKNAP SEEDLING PROJECTS

The Fort Belknap Tribes received over 500 seedlings from the DNRC for various planting initiatives across their communities aimed at increasing canopy cover, wind protection, shade, and to re-establish culturally significant species. Planting sites included the following locations:

- Aaniiih Nakoda College: lilac
- Prairie Mountain Utilities: bur oak and lilac
- Little Rockies Horseshoe team site in the Mission Canyon: aspen and crabapple
- Hays Youth Skate Park: aspen and lilac

The Tribe was able to fortify their edible windbreak with 48 currant and 36 serviceberry seedlings.

BLACKFEET ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

The Blackfeet Environmental Office organized an Arbor Day Celebration attended by approximately 400 members. Over 300 culturally significant trees were obtained by the DNRC from the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Nursery and distributed to attendees in an event that highlighted the Blackfeet Nation's focus on cultural heritage and intertribal collaboration.

To promote the success of the seedlings given away during the event, DNRC partnered with the Montana Urban and Community Forestry Association (MUCFA) to provide information about tree planting and care.

CROW SEEDLING PROJECT

DNRC provided Crow Nation with just over 500 seedlings to distribute among tribal entities, including Crow Housing Development, various non-profit organizations, and a local school.

- Mighty Few Youth Group partners with other organizations to provide culturally significant activities for youth and included serviceberry plantings at their facility in their program.
- Lodge Grass-based Mountain Shadow Association (MSA), a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting holistic addiction recovery and family services, utilizing seedlings provided by DNRC. In partnership with Crow Housing Development, MSA was able to begin a food forest at their new Kaala's Village Family Healing Center.
- Apsaalooke Tribal Health incorporated seedlings into their healing garden.
- Wyola Public School (K-8) planted eight serviceberry seedlings to enhance culturally significant species in their school's community garden.

CONSERVATION SEEDLING PROGRAM

The DNRC nursery has maintained a 20-year seedling production partnership with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, growing and planting around 2 million seedlings since 2005. In the past year alone, 492,053 ponderosa pine seedlings were delivered, with seeds annually sourced by the Tribe. Approximately 600,000 seedlings are now in production for 2026. Grant funding for this work is supported by American Forests and The Climate Trust.

Other tribal collaborations include:

- Fort Belknap Tribe: 76,000 ponderosa pine seedlings grown and planted; the nursery also processes cones and banks seed.
- Chippewa Cree Tribe: 25,000 douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and western larch seedlings planted in 2025; cone processing and seed banking ongoing.
- Fort Peck Tribe: Purchased $2,000 in seedlings from the nursery's general sale, delivered in May 2025.
- Crow Nation: Following a visit from Crow Elder Daren Old Coyote, interest is growing in a 2027 seedling contract. The nursery previously grew seedlings in 2023 and 2024 and continues cone processing and seed banking.

These partnerships reflect the DNRC nursery's ongoing commitment to supporting tribal reforestation and ecological restoration efforts across Montana

TONGUE RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE REJUVENATION

After a seven-year period of dormancy, the Tongue River Reservoir Advisory Committee met in person February 25, 2025. The Advisory Committee is required under the Northern Cheyenne-State of Montana Reserved Water Rights Compact to meet annually and agree on an annual operating plan for the Tongue River Reservoir but had experienced a period of dormancy.

All committee members attended the February 25, 2025 in-person meeting and participated in robust discussions on operations and communications. The Advisory Committee held two subsequent virtual meetings, is in the process of updating the operating plan, and committee members have re-committed to continue to meet regularly going forward.

WATER, SEWER, AND IRRIGATION GRANTS

DNRC's Conservation and Resource Development Division provides grant funds to tribal governments for projects that measurably conserve, manage, develop, or preserve land and water resources through the Renewable Resource Grant Program as well as the Reclamation Development Grants Program.

DNRC also provided grants to tribal governments for necessary investments in water and sewer infrastructure through the American Rescue Plan Act funds received through the State of Montana. Throughout the lifetime of the grant, DNRC staff work with tribal governments to be successful in planning, designing, and constructing projects using grant funds that deliver safe reliable drinking water, wastewater treatment, or irrigation water to tribal communities.

RESERVATION	AMOUNT
BLACKFEET	$141,918.35
CSKT	$280,910.60
FORT PECK	$1,688.25
ROCKY BOY	$179,296.59
NORTHERN CHEYENNE	$13,815.00
CROW	$12,450.00
TOTAL	**$630,078.79**

FLATHEAD INDIAN IRRIGATION PROJECT

Due to operational changes under the water compact between the State of Montana and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT), the Flathead Indian Irrigation Project (FIIP) is ending off-season stock water deliveries. In response, the State collaborated with CSKT and a technical committee formed under the compact to create a grant program supporting stock water storage solutions. A total of $4 million was awarded to Tribal member stock growers, CSKT, and non-Tribal producers, with CSKT receiving $1.3 million to assist their lessees impacted by the changes. Funded through the State's compact settlement contribution, DNRC is now working with grant recipients to help complete their projects.

SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

The chief responsibility of government is to keep communities safe and secure. Governor Gianforte is committed to working with tribal partners to make our communities safer and increase access to treatment and recovery services in tribal communities, making a historic, $300 million investment to improve behavioral health and developmental disabilities systems in Montana this year.

For our communities and families to stay healthy and thrive, Governor Gianforte will continue working with tribal and local leaders to increase Montanans' access to health care, preserve access to care in our rural communities, and bring down the cost of health care and prescription drugs.

The State of Montana will continue to prioritize making investments to build healthier communities, providing access to preventative health care resources, strengthening families, growing our health care workforce, and increasing Montanans' choices to promote good health.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Montana continues to prioritize the health and well-being of tribal communities by expanding access to health care services, investing in mental health and substance use treatment, and supporting tribal health systems through collaborative partnerships. By fostering partnerships between state agencies, tribal health leaders, Montana is working to expand access to quality care for all Native communities

IMPROVING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

In line with his priorities to repair the behavioral health system in Montana and in Tribal communities, Governor Gianforte approved up to $6.5 million in one-time grants to tribal nations and Urban Indian Health Organziations (UIHOs) to improve their capacity to meet behavioral health needs, including facility enhancements, mobile crisis response teams, and transportation options. The projects include:

- Helena Indian Alliance will expand and renovate their behavioral health unit, which will include 10 private offices, a play therapy space, and a group therapy room.
- Little Shell Chippewa Tribe will create a dedicated space for behavioral health services, including a room for group therapy, and will hire a behavioral health project manager.
- Indian Family Health Clinic (IFHC) will expand and remodel the behavioral health wing of IFHC, fund the behavioral health director, executive director, and hire a new nurse practitioner.
- Fort Peck will implement a Tele-Behavioral Health Crisis Care Coordination Program and purchase a vehicle to transport individuals experiencing behavioral health crises.
- Native American Development Corporation (NADC) will make upgrades to the Eagle Seeker Community Center, including heating and cooling systems and geological testing, which will allow for service expansion to include behavioral health services.
- Butte Native Wellness Center will construct a Healing Garden and Cultural Center and a second-floor addition for cultural healing activities and groups.
- Northern Cheyenne will hire a psychiatric nurse practitioner and implement a school-based behavioral health program.
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) will establish a Tribal Behavioral Health and Wellness Center by hiring a cultural advisor, clinical manager, and behavioral health provider, as well as purchasing a vehicle for client transport and making building improvements.
- Blackfeet Nation will purchase and construct a modular office that will allow for a place to provide behavioral services.
- Fort Belknap will make improvements to shared spaces that provide behavioral health capacity, purchase and implement a new patient management system/electronic health records, and procure a data management contract for behavioral health data analysis.
- Rocky Boy will remodel the integrated health division of Rocky Boy Health Center, including improvements to the entryway and patient waiting areas.
- All Nations Health Center will purchase a new building to provide behavioral health services.
- Crow Tribe will construct and renovate a building to provide behavioral health services.

FUNDING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PILOTS IN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

Montana's rural and frontier counties and tribal communities face heightened behavioral health (BH) needs because they live in areas that often lack necessary resources. Over 40% of Montana communities lack a mental health center, and access to BH facilities is especially scarce in these areas. The geographic isolation also creates substantial transportation barriers, often preventing Montanans from receiving essential BH support.

To address this, the Behavioral Health System for Future Generations (BHSFG) Commission will award one-time, two-year grants to 10 rural and/or frontier counties and tribes. These grants will pilot innovative BH solutions tailored to the unique needs of these communities.

The Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation, awarded the System-Level Innovation track, will partner with the Montana Public Health Institute (MTPHI) to implement their BH Toolkit. This toolkit will enable communities to expand and modernize BH services and resources.

The Little Shell Chippewa Tribe, awarded the Local-based Community Health Workers (CHW) track, will leverage local CHWs to connect community members with the extensive network of behavioral health service providers available through Catalyst for Change's referral system. Catalyst for Change will provide clinical supervision and training to these CHWs, equipping them to effectively respond to BH crises and link community members to necessary services and resources.

TRIBAL VETERAN HEALTH CARE BENEFITS

Veteran Service Officers conducts outreach events to tribal nations to meet with veterans to assist with VA Healthcare Enrollment and application for VA Benefits. The Department of Military Affairs is also involved in events strategically planned around tribal nations' needs through the year.

Our Veteran Service Officers participated in PACT Act Tribal events in Pablo, Browning, Fort Peck, two in Crow, and at the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Conference. Veteran Service Officers also conducted outreach to tribal nations during a Stand Down event at Fort Belknap in August 2024.

A veteran being honored on the Blackfeet Reservation. Montana Department of Commerce.

PARTNERING ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), intends to build the prevention capacity throughout states (SPF-PFS) and to strengthen the capacity of local community and tribal prevention providers.

The SPF-PFS program's focus is on collegiate and tribal populations. The program reduces the onset and progression of substance misuse and its related problems by supporting the development and delivery of services for ages birth to 19, including families.

As a result of this grant collaboration with the participating tribes and colleges, the participants established methods to effectively exchange information to better assist the patients they serve. Tribal consultations led to increased collaboration between the state and tribal partners, which has led to even more partners becoming a part of the resource network.

TRIBAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT (T-HIP)

The Tribal Health Improvement Program (T-HIP) is a partnership between tribal, state, and federal governments to address factors that contribute to health disparities and a 20-year life expectancy difference in the American Indian population in Montana eligible for Medicaid and residing on a reservation. Effective July 1, 2024, T-HIP was redesigned to align with the Primary Care Case Management entities (PCCMe) federal requirements. T-HIP continues to be a three-tiered program, but is now solely focused on enhanced care coordination services at all tiers.

Services include guiding members through health care options, coordinating and implementing wellness plans, advocating on behalf of members, and providing community resource information. T-HIP services are designed to help members maximize the benefits of their medical and other support systems, improve knowledge of their disease and self-management skills, and remove barriers to achieving better health and better quality of life.

The total reimbursement for all seven participating T-HIP tribes from July 1, 2024, through May 31st, 2025, is $24,147,300.00

TRIBE NAME	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
BLACKFEET	3,811
CSKT	3,446
FORT BELKNAP	1,777
FORT PECK	3,704
CHIPPEWA CREE	1,599
NORTHERN CHEYENNE	1,875
CROW	2,781
TOTAL MEMBERS	**15,834**

ZERO TO FIVE - LITTLE CHICKADEE LEARNING LODGE

The Department of Health and Human Services' (DPPHS) Early Childhood and Family Support Division (ECFSD) contracts with Zero to Five to provide business supports to child care providers. As part of that work, Montana's Child Care Business Connect (MCCBC) program provides individualized business technical assistance to entrepreneurs statewide working to start or expand a child care program. The program's goal is to assist with business sustainability to meet the needs of all communities, including those on tribal lands.

During this reporting period, Zero to Five collaborated with the Mountain Shadow Association, a Native American community non-profit, to launch Little Chickadee Learning Lodge. The learning center opened in October 2024 and is a dually licensed tribal and state kinship care program designed to provide essential childcare support for kin caring for children in and around Lodge Grass.

Beyond this project, ECFSD and Zero to Five are also supporting two other significant childcare initiatives, including one in Ronan that's actively working to expand its services. A second initiative is on the Rocky Boy's Reservation, where assistance is being provided to an employer to help develop an on-site child care program designed to benefit both their employees and the broader community.

The Little Chickadee Learning Lodge in Lodge Grass. Mountain Shadow Association.

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY - OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH

Montana REACH is a five-year partnership where the Montana Office of Rural Health and Montana Area Health Education Center works closely with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Fort Peck Tribes, the Chippewa Cree Tribe, and Montana DPHHS to strengthen Native communities through practical, lasting solutions to reduce chronic disease. Montana REACH is specifically working in areas of Nutrition, Produce Rx, Physical Activity, and Family Wellness.

Backed by the Centers for Disease Control, the program is designed to strengthen community health and reduce long-term healthcare costs by preventing chronic diseases before they start, especially in high-risk areas. This is the first time Montana is participating in REACH, and the program is making smart use of federal support by building on existing state and local efforts.

Montana REACH stands out as a powerful example of collaboration between the State of Montana, Montana State University, and three tribal communities, united in advancing a shared health initiative. The program has focused on developing culturally tailored interventions to address chronic disease. One such initiative is a new Produce Rx program with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, which will support individuals in recovery and integrates work requirements—encouraging active participation in both personal health and community contribution. In the Fort Peck Reservation, wellness efforts emphasize the family unit as the cornerstone of community health, promoting strong parental involvement to model healthy behaviors for future generations. These programs are thoughtfully adapted to reflect cultural values and traditions. On Rocky Boy's Reservation, the focus is on increasing physical activity through a public safety lens, with initiatives aimed at reducing pedestrian accidents and making local roads safer for all.

MONTANA PATHWAYS TO RECOGNITION

The Montana Pathways Learning Collaborative is a voluntary two-year program that helps local and tribal health departments achieve national Pathways Recognition, which is based on Foundational Public Health Services. This collaborative assists departments in meeting national requirements through technical assistance from the DPHHS Local and Tribal Support Program and the Montana Public Health Institute, focusing on sustainable improvements rather than just compliance. The program also fosters a virtual learning community for resource sharing and peer learning.

The Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribe (CSKT) Health Department successfully completed the learning collaborative and is now enrolled in the National Program with the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The CSKT Health Department received Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Public Health Infrastructure Grant funding, which helps eliminate barriers like PHAB fees, staff time costs, and equipment purchases.

BUFFALO NATIONS FOOD SYSTEMS INITIATIVE

The Buffalo Nations Food System Initiative (Buffalo Nations) is an education and research program dedicated to advancing Indigenous food sovereignty across the Northern Plains and Rockies. Housed within the College of Education, Health, and Human Development and the College of Letters and Science at Montana State University, Buffalo Nations supports credentialing pathways in Indigenous Food Systems, facilitates student and faculty research, and partners with tribal colleges and Indigenous non-profit organizations to foster vibrant, 21st-century Indigenous food systems.

Buffalo Nations' credentialing pathways include:

- A Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Food Systems
- The emerging Buffalo Caretaker Postsecondary Certificate (developed in partnership with Blackfeet Community College in Browning, MT, and the International Buffalo Relations Institute in Lethbridge, AB)
- A domestic and international Indigenous steward-to-steward agricultural exchange
- The region-serving Indigenous Foods Laboratory located in Bozeman
- Four Indigenous gardens
- An ancestral seed propagation project and seed bank
- A summer fellowship in Indigenous Food Systems

Buffalo Nations maintains strong partnerships with community-based organizations, including the North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems (Minneapolis, MN), Piikani Lodge Health Institute (Browning, MT), Nueta, Hidatsa, Sahnish College (New Town, ND), Blackfeet Community College (Browning, MT), Montana Indigenous Food Sovereignty Initiative (Bozeman, MT), International Buffalo Relations Institute (Lethbridge, AB), and Human Resource Development Council of Southwest Montana (Bozeman, MT).

Leroy Little Bear, Anthony Hernandez, Merritt Grace Davis, Elliot French, Jill Falcon Ramaker, Thomas Böttger, Selah Kone, Bree Eastman, MJ Desrosier at an event.
Merritt Grace Davis.

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY - YOUTH AWARE OF MENTAL HEALTH (YAM)

In 2024–2025, Montana State University's Center for Research on Rural Education, in partnership with MSU Extension, delivered the Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM) program to 276 ninth-grade students at Browning, Heart Butte, Ronan, and St. Ignatius High Schools.

YAM is a nationally recognized, classroom-based program that helps students understand mental health, build emotional resilience, and recognize signs of depression and anxiety. Supported by National Alliance on Mental Illness, Montana, DPHHS, and USDA funding, the program was delivered with help from Blackfeet Community Health and other local partners.

Students participate in a workshop activity. Montana State University.

Two new instructors were certified to expand YAM's reach on the Salish Kootenai Reservation. Student feedback showed strong impact: 83% said YAM should be taught in schools, 72% found it useful, and 68% were more likely to help a friend in crisis.

YAM is helping Montana's tribal youth build awareness, confidence, and connection—laying the groundwork for healthier communities.

HEALING AND ENDING ADDICTION THROUGH RECOVERY AND TREATMENT TRIBAL GRANTS

The Healing and Ending Addiction Through Recovery and Treatment (HEART) Fund represents a landmark investment in addressing addiction and behavioral health statewide. With support from the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), the governor and legislature have dedicated $500,000 each year to tribal programs through the HEART Fund, fostering culturally grounded prevention, treatment, and recovery initiatives. Designed to support solutions that reflect the values and strengths of tribal communities, the fund provides direct annual grants of $62,500 to each tribal nation, enabling locally driven strategies that promote wellness, cultural connection, and long-term healing. Each tribal nation utilized HEART funding to support prevention and community wellness this past year.

The Blackfeet Nation hosted sobriety-focused events, including their 2nd Annual Sobriety Ball and Red Ribbon Week, while collaborating with Browning Public Schools to promote substance use disorder education and suicide prevention. The Chippewa Cree Tribe focused on youth empowerment through training on cultural identity, trauma awareness, and healthy decision-making. The Crow Tribe held multiple cultural outreach events, including fentanyl awareness presentations and community gatherings, and Northern Cheyenne held a Community Round Dance. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes used HEART funds to launch a Healing Court, now fully operational and offering a trauma-informed, culturally grounded alternative to incarceration. They also established "Recovery Village," a recovery residence in Pablo, for Court participants in need of housing. Fort Belknap centered efforts on long-term prevention through cultural activities like drum and moccasin making, while Fort Peck carried out buffalo harvests, horsemanship clinics, and powwows to reinforce healing and heritage. The Little Shell Tribe invested in cultural teachings, crafts, storytelling, strengthening community bonds, and honoring ancestral traditions.

Tribal nations also expanded crisis services and promoted awareness of crisis supports using HEART grants, organizing candlelight vigils, glow walks, and grief support events. Treatment programs benefited from HEART funding as well, with multiple tribes supporting harm reduction, evidence-based therapy, and cultural healing groups.

MONTANA ASTHMA CONTROL PROGRAM

American Indians in Montana experience a higher asthma prevalence (13.7%) compared to caucasian Montanans (10.7%) (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System 2022-23), with 38.7% of all Montanans having uncontrolled asthma (Asthma Call Back Survey 2020-2022). Preventable asthma hospitalizations cost Montana $5.2 million in 2024 (Hospital Discharge Data, 2024).

To address this, the Heart Butte School-Based Health Center on the Blackfeet Reservation, managed by the Southern Peigan Health Center, completed a year-long quality improvement project in 2024. With $5,000 from the Montana Asthma Control Program (MACP), they assessed their electronic health records (EHR) and refined clinic workflows. MACP also provided training on guidelines-based asthma care and EHR technical assistance.

This initiative dramatically increased patient assessment for asthma control, inhaler technique education, and asthma action plan provision from 0% to 70% during the project year. Southern Peigan Health Center plans to replicate this success across other school-based health centers on the Blackfeet Reservation.

The 2025 Tobacco Warrior Summit.
Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.

BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE

In Fall 2024, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) collaborated with American Indian health leaders to enhance chronic disease and risk factor data collection within tribal communities.

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), a long-standing telephone health survey, was re-engineered to provide reservation-specific health estimates and collect tribal affiliation information. This allows for tribe-specific analysis regardless of residency. Additionally, each tribe can now add up to four custom questions to the survey for their members, leveraging the existing BRFSS infrastructure to gather data on their most critical health issues at no cost.

These methodological advancements will significantly improve the availability and precision of population-level health data for tribes, enabling more targeted and effective health improvement initiatives.

MONTANA TOBACCO USE PREVENTION

The Montana Tobacco Use Prevention Program (MTUPP) champions community health through its network of ten American Indian Tobacco Education Specialists (TES). These specialists are embedded within eight tribal health departments and two Urban Indian Centers in Billings and Missoula. They actively engage their communities, educating them on the health effects of commercial tobacco while honoring the sacred role of ceremonial tobacco. Their work spans schools, cultural events, health fairs, and digital platforms, providing vital cessation resources.

The 2025 Tobacco Warrior Summit, co-hosted by the Fort Belknap and Rocky Boy Tribes, saw approximately 50 youth participate, traveling between Havre, Fort Belknap, and Rocky Boy reservations. Many attendees return annually, evolving into community leaders and chaperones who advocate for ceremonial tobacco and against commercial use. The Tobacco Warrior Summit remains a powerful force for cultural preservation, youth empowerment, and community health.

SUICIDE PREVENTION IN INDIAN COUNTRY

The Suicide Prevention Program is working closely with Montana's tribal and urban Native American communities to strengthen mental health crisis systems and reduce suicide among Native veterans—a group facing disproportionately high suicide rates. These efforts center on enhancing 988 crisis services and advancing veteran suicide prevention.

2025 Governor's Challenge Protectors Summit keynote presenter Kim Mitchell, former Special Advisor to the Director of the US Department of Veterans Affairs (center), standing with members of the Apsáalooke Nation Lady Warriors.
Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.

In partnership with tribal organizations, the program has supported initiatives like the Crisis Intercept Mapping exercise at Fort Peck, promoted a unified tribal call center model, and distributed 988 materials statewide, including to urban Indian clinics.

On the veteran front, the Program presented at Fort Peck's Native veteran celebration and hosted the Governor's Challenge Protector's Summit, emphasizing care connection, lethal means safety, and the importance of Native veteran input. Plans are underway to create a custom challenge coin for future outreach.

Collaborations with the Montana Public Health Institute and ongoing participation in crisis coordinator coalitions further support system-building across Indian Country. Backed by state and federal funding, these initiatives are already showing encouraging signs, with early data pointing to a decline in suicide rates among Native populations.

FITNESS PROGRAM TO IMPROVE HEALTH

The Montana Arthritis Program and Montana Falls Prevention Program are actively partnering with seven Montana tribes to enhance the health and well-being of Montana American Indians.

These collaborations focus on implementing community-based, evidence-based fitness programs designed to manage arthritis, prevent falls, and improve overall health. Programs like Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL), Stepping On, Tai Chi for Arthritis and Falls Prevention, and Walk with Ease are led by trained tribal members, ensuring cultural relevance and strong community engagement.

Thirty-eight tribal leaders were trained to facilitate these vital programs during the reporting period.

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY - CENTER FOR AMERICAN INDIAN AND RURAL HEALTH EXCELLENCE

The People of the Land Summit was co-hosted by Blackfeet Community College (BFCC) and the Center for American Indian & Rural Health Excellence (CAIRHE) at Montana State University. Speakers with STEM, community-based, and storytelling knowledge from American Indian and Māori nations attended.

This gathering also invited Western knowledge-based scientists and other partners to share and learn from this meaningful exchange of ideas to inform their research and expand the scope of community-generated solutions. Participants gained a deeper understanding of the relationships tribal communities have with the earth and offer new insights into sustainable practices.

This gathering provided an immersive land-based learning experience on the land and waters of the Blackfeet Nation. BFCC was the primary host of this second annual gathering June 17 -20, 2025 in Babb, MT at the Chewing Black Bones Campground.

People of the Land Summit in Babb, MT. Montana State University.

CRISIS DIVERSION GRANTS

The Crisis Diversion Grant (CDG) program empowers Montana communities to address acute behavioral health crises by funding local, strategic proposals. This funding directly supports counties and federally recognized tribes in developing and implementing local diversion efforts.

The awards to tribal governments included $327,280.69 to Blackfeet Nation and $732,647.74 to Fort Peck to support local initiatives that are strategically targeted to each community.

The contract with the Blackfeet tribal government will invest in supporting their local crisis system through funding activities such as coalition building and resource mapping. It also invests in a local Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program that supports law enforcement's ability to respond to those experiencing behavioral health crises.

The contract with the Fort Peck tribal government similarly invests in supporting their local crisis system. Additionally, iinvests in a CIT program and various innovative projects that aim to support crisis diversion within their rural context.

LONG TERM COLLABORATION ON HEALTH

This year, the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) launched the Long-Term Services and Supports Strategic Planning initiative to strengthen relationships with Montana's tribal governments and improve in-home care for elderly and disabled tribal members. Funded by the Money Follows the Person Capacity Building Grant, the project focuses on developing culturally informed guidance for care providers and conducting listening sessions across reservations and urban Indian communities to identify unmet needs.

Tribal programs will be invited to participate in long-term care summits and consultations, helping shape future policies. Though still in early stages, the initiative aims to embed tribal perspectives into Montana's long-term care system, ensuring respectful, responsive, and sustainable services guided by the wisdom of tribal elders and caregivers.

INCREASING ADOPTION IN INDIAN COUNTRY

In the past year, the DPHHS Office of Faith and Community-Based Services (OFCBS) expanded its outreach to Montana's tribal communities by strengthening partnerships and distributing resources. Collaborations with Child Bridge, Promise 686, and Love and Sunshine led to the hiring of Native American liaisons who provide culturally responsive support to off-reservation tribal members.

In 2024, OFCBS distributed a semi-truckload of toys to children in foster care and child welfare systems, reaching tribal leadership and organizations across Montana. The office also participated in key events, including the Better Live Montana gathering in Butte featuring Reverend Titus Upham, and the 50th anniversary of the new health facility at Rocky Boy, reinforcing its commitment to tribal well-being.

TREATING NATIVE CHILDREN'S TRAUMA

The National Native Children's Trauma Center (NNCTC) at the University of Montana is the National Training and Technical Assistance Center for the Expansion Initiative of Child Advocacy Centers to improve access and services to AI/AN children, families and communities. NNCTC's singular goal within this project is to increase the capacity of Tribal CACs and CACs serving AI/AN youth to effectively investigate, prosecute, and intervene in child abuse cases involving AI/AN children and their families.

The National Children's Alliance manages the subgrants program to fund grantees in order to expand Child Advocacy Center (CAC) services to American Indian Tribal lands and Alaska Native villages to better meet the needs of child victims and their families. The Fort Peck Tribes Red Bird Woman's Center is a grantee and that receives training and technical assistance.

Staff check in regularly (at least monthly) to ensure any training or technical assistance requests are fulfilled. Staff also provide a quarterly call to network all funded grantees and provided a Mandated Reporting Training on January 22, 2025 onsite.

SUICIDE SAFE CARE TRAINING

In April 2025, clinicians at the Butte Native Wellness Center received comprehensive Suicide Safe Care training. This vital presentation focused on the unique challenges of suicide within Native culture, specifically highlighting the crucial role of primary care providers in assessing and intervening with high-risk patients.

The training covered national and Montana data, demographics of suicidal individuals, and key warning signs. Participants learned to utilize evidence-based tools such as the PHQ-9/PHQ-A for depression, GAD-7 for anxiety, and the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale/ASQ for suicide risk assessment. Critical components like safety planning, lethal means counseling, and caring contact were also emphasized, along with available resources.

By the end of the training, participants were equipped to conduct screenings, assess suicide risk, create safety plan, and counsel patients on safe firearm and medication storage.

ALZHEIMER'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

When a member of a family has Alzheimer's dementia, everyone in that family is affected, including the children. Because Native American cultures hold great esteem for elders, they are more likely to take care of them at home. When family caregivers lack knowledge about Alzheimer's, it creates stress on them and the family. Adults will have difficulty helping their children understand what is happening and children will not know how to react and are likely to show a wide range of emotions.

Children's interactions and relationships with people with Alzheimer's depend on how they learn to recognize and cope with these emotions and the support they have around them. That is the foundation for the development of a storybook about Alzheimer's and Native American Children, titled "The Great Crow Hop Dancer Remembers."

The Great Crow Hop story book cover.
Montana State University.

500 copies of the storybook have been distributed on the Crow Reservation. They have been distributed by a variety of tribal offices such as the Apsaalooke Child and Family Service Office and the MSU Extension Office Outreach and Engagement Council.

INCREASING SUPPORT FOR NATIVE MOTHERS AND FAMILIES

The Montana Obstetric and Maternal Support (MOMS) Program partnered with Yarrow and Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies—The Montana Coalition to implement the Cultural Immersion Day Program. The Cultural Immersion Day Program is a strengths-based, relationship-centric model designed to drive system-level quality improvements in non-Indigenous health facilities that serve Indigenous communities. The groups worked with tribal nations and their health programs to develop immersion opportunities in which staff from non-Indigenous birthing facilities are brought to tribal nations to develop relationships.

Northern Cheyenne held a Cultural Immersion Day in July 2024, during which they hosted five labor and delivery, NICU staff, and a care manager from Billings Clinic and St. Vincent Intermountain Health.

Kyle, a participant in the MOMS Empaths program.
Montana Obstertrics & Maternal Support.

LEAD SCREENING AND TESTING

In Fall 2024, the Northern Cheyenne Indian Health Services (IHS) pediatric team identified elevated blood lead levels in children, with families suspecting dirt ingestion as the cause. This prompted concerns among health care providers about broader community exposure to lead in soil or clay.

To help identify lead sources, the Montana APPLETREE Program partnered with Tribal Health and IHS to host free soil screening events (soilSHOPS) across the five districts in May 2025. More than 50 soil samples from 30 households and five daycares were screened, and participants received personalized education on their results and methods for lead exposure reduction.

Additionally, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Health requested lead investigation training. In April 2025, the Montana Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) provided virtual training to tribal health staff, covering lead basics, testing, reporting, poisoning, and follow-up procedures for exposure cases.

PROTECTING INDIAN COUNTRY

The State of Montana remains steadfast in its commitment to building safer, healthier tribal communities through direct collaboration with tribal governments, including investments in substance use treatment, mental health services, and crime prevention initiatives. Montana continues to prioritize consumer protection and justice in Indian Country by promoting the well-being of Native communities.

CROW NATION HELICOPTER LANDING ZONES

The Montana Army National Guard is working with the Crow Nation to establish helicopter landing zones (HLZs) on the reservation, which will provide valuable training opportunities for National Guard pilots, especially those stationed at the new Limited Army Aviation Facility (LAASF) in Billings.

An aerial photo of the Crow Reservation.
Montana Department of Commerce.

To move the project forward, the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) is coordinating with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to conduct an environmental analysis of the proposed HLZs. A March 2025 meeting between DMA and BIA helped align the process, and a Real Estate Action Plan submitted in 2024 is currently pending approval by the National Guard Bureau.

In summer 2024, LAASF personnel partnered with the Crow Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) to conduct cultural surveys of the proposed sites. Aircrews transported THPO staff via UH60L Blackhawk helicopters to Crow Agency and Hardin, then to the HLZs for on-site assessments.

BIA biologists are also reviewing the potential impact of flight paths and landing zones on sage grouse leks within the reservation, using 2025 field data. Once baseline information is finalized, the environmental analysis will ensure that the HLZs pose no cultural or ecological conflicts.

CONSUMER PROTECTION, EDUCATION, AND AWARENESS

Under Commissioner James Brown, the Office of the Commissioner of Securities and Insurance (CSI) is dedicated to ensuring fairness and transparency in Montana's insurance and securities industries. The Office's mission is to protect all Montanans—including those in tribal communities—from fraud, abuse, and unfair practices by providing trusted resources, enforcing regulations, and supporting consumer education.

Resources for Tribal Communities

The CSI is committed to strengthening partnerships with Montana's tribal nations, working to develop and share relevant resources. Through its website and outreach, the CSI strives to ensure that all Montanans can make informed decisions about insurance and securities and protect themselves from fraud.

Advocacy and National Leadership

Commissioner James Brown actively serves on the American Indian and Alaska Native Liaison Committee for the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). Through this role, Commissioner Brown elevates issues facing Montana's tribal nations to the national stage and fosters collaboration with tribal members to share perspectives on issues of shared interest.

Commissioner James Brown participates in a meeting of the State Tribal Economic Development Commission.
Office of the Commissioner of Securities and Insurance.

Connection and Communication

The CSI maintains engagement with tribal partners to support community initiatives on financial empowerment and promote the role of insurance in business development and asset protection. Notable activities include:

Economic Development

At the May 2025 State Tribal Economic Development Commission meeting, Commissioner Brown highlighted agency resources, including online educational resources and consumer advocate support (csimt.gov), property insurance challenges facing Montanans, digital assets and federal regulatory developments, insurance and investor fraud awareness, prevalent financial scams, and financial elder exploitation.

The Commissioenr also promoted the collaborative 2024 CSI Financial Literacy in Indian Country Workgroup Initiative, which includes resources for relevant financial literacy information connecting traditional values with modern money management

Educational Outreach

Staff joined the May 2025 Montana Tribal College and Career Fair Circuit, visiting tribal colleges statewide to describe CSI's career opportunities and to share information about the agency's consumer services and valuable online insurance and securities resources.

BLACKFEET NATION UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS) TRAINING

Within the last few years the Montana Department of Transportation Maintenance Division has been developing a UAS program through the leadership of Mike Kuni. This includes Part 107 and live UAS flight training. Mike has recently integrated drone technology into the operations of several tribal agencies from the Blackfoot Nation. This training was offered at no charge and resulted in 25 participants attending both weeks of training.

The introduction of UAS technology holds significant promise for improving workflow efficiency, data collection, and safety within tribal communities. Drones can assist in a wide range of activities, from infrastructure inspection and land surveying to emergency response and environmental monitoring, offering a faster, safer, and more cost-effective alternative to traditional methods. For the Blackfeet Nation, adopting this technology not only supports self-sufficiency in managing their lands and resources but also enhances the overall safety of personnel by reducing the need for potentially hazardous fieldwork. This training represents a crucial step in bridging technological gaps and fostering stronger state-tribal partnerships through shared innovation.

Attendees participate in live UAS flight training.
Montana Department of Transportation.

Tribal agencies involved in the drone training included a diverse group of departments and staff from across the Blackfeet Nation. Participants represented Tribal Health IT, Tribal Council staff, the Blackfeet Environmental Office, Agriculture Department, Domestic Water/Weed Program, Fire Management and Forestry, Tribal Police, Land Department, Fire Rescue, Fish & Wildlife, Property Management, the Tribal Historic Preservation Office, and Homeland Security. This broad engagement reflects a strong cross-sector commitment to integrating drone technology into tribal operations and emergency response efforts.

MONTANA DRIVE

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) received a grant through a competitive process from the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) and the Ford Motor Company Fund. Through that grant, 24 tribal teens representing seven land-based tribes in Montana were able to complete the Montana Drive program, held in Lewistown, offered through the Office of Public Instruction (OPI). This was the first time many of these teens received hands-on driving instruction.

First graduating Montana Drive class of tribal teens. Montana Department of Transportation.

MDT pursued the grant because only two of Montana's tribes offer driver's education. State law requires training be provided by a certified teacher and many tribal communities do not have the resources. Additionally, not all communities within reservation boundaries have traffic code related to education for novice drivers or driver's licensing requirements. This means many young Native American drivers lack access to any formal training, yet driving remains a transportation necessity in rural areas

In addition to the Montana Drive program offered through the Office of Public Instruction, this grant funded scholarships for Tribal teachers to become certified driver's education instructors through MSU-Northern to further promote drivers' education. Five scholarships were provided with all expenses paid for new instructors in Tribal communities. Confederated Salish & Kootenai, Fort Belknap, and Northern Cheyenne are taking part in the training. The total amount of grants funds used to promote this education project was approximately $41,000.

FLATHEAD RESERVATION REENTRY

Representatives of the Flathead Reservation Reentry Program visited Montana State Prison in May 2025 to interview 12 inmates who are members of federally recognized tribes for potential intake into their program. It was the first time reentry program representatives visited the prison to interview perspective candidates.

The program – which is housed within the Tribal Defenders Office for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes – provides reentry services on the Flathead Reservation. Those include mental health assessment and access to treatment, access to chemical dependency treatment, transportation, housing assistance, vocational training, and more.

Individuals paroling from prison are required to have a parole plan in place that addresses where they will live, work, and receive the programming they need. Acceptance into this reentry program is regarded as an excellent step toward reintegrating into the community.

MONTANA MISSING INDIGENOUS PERSONS TASK FORCE

In June 2024, Attorney General Austin Knudsen appointed new members to the Montana Missing Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Task Force following its ten-year extension by the 2023 Legislature. That fall, the Task Force used the Search and Rescue Teams Training Grant to host a multi-day emergency responder course in Great Falls, combining classroom instruction with field exercises to equip participants with the skills needed to assist in search and rescue operations.

The Montana Department of Justice holds a field training in Great Falls.
Montana Department of Justice.

The Task Force met again in June 2025 for its annual in-person meeting in Billings, focusing on strategies to address the disproportionate number of missing Indigenous persons in Montana. Although Indigenous people make up just over 6 percent of the state's population, they accounted for more than 30 percent of missing person reports in 2024.

This year, the legislature passed and Governor Gianforte signed into law House Bill 83, which established a special revenue account to support the Task Force's efforts and allowing it to receive donations. House Bill 545 also renamed the group the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Advisory Council and expanded its mission to include cases of Indigenous homicides, broadening its scope beyond missing persons alone.

AMBER ALERT IN INDIAN COUNTRY

The Department of Justice launched an effort a year ago to help increase tribal awareness about AMBER Alerts in Indian Country.

In October 2024, Missing Person Specialist Kelly Gilman traveled to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, the Blackfeet Nation, Crow Agency, and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe to speak with tribal council members, law enforcement, dispatch centers, and tribal members to discuss AMBER Alerts, missing persons cases, and available resources to support tribal members with missing loved ones.

DOJ holds a meeting with Blackfeet Nation.
Montana Department of Justice.

RIVERSIDE SMUDGING CEREMONY

Before moving 50 female inmates into the Riverside Facility in Boulder, the Montana Department of Corrections partnered with the Helena Indian Alliance to smudge and bless the facility to ensure a purified space for the inmates to live.

The DOC is committed to including Indigenous culture in its operations and nurturing partnerships with community partners to deliver Indigenous programming at its facilities.

Corrections staff and the Helena Indian Alliance at the Riverside facility in Boulder.
Montana Department of Corrections.

FORT PECK RADON CONTROL

Since February 2025, Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) staff has been working with Fort Peck environmental staff to establish a tribal radon program under DEQ's Montana Radon Control Program via an addendum to the state's program plan. The effort addressed the significant challenge of gaining US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval for radon control program plans for tribes. Overcoming this challenge was critical because delays in approval hindered effective radon control measures, directly affecting the health and safety of tribal communities by increasing their exposure to radon, a known cause of lung cancer. By operating under the Montana program, the tribal program overcame approval barriers and gained access to necessary resources and support, leading to effective radon testing and mitigation efforts.

This initiative enables the Fort Peck environmental staff to support residents and workplaces with radon-related services. The program has facilitated 10 outreach events and participation in 5 community events. Fort Peck staff also engaged with various health groups, providing literature and outreach. As a result, several homes have been tested for radon, and some are undergoing mitigation to address identified issues. Other states are now following Montana's model to coordinate with and enable their respective tribal partners' radon programs.

BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT IN RONAN

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is working with the City of Ronan to address petroleum contamination and the potential redevelopment of the former George's Conoco gas station property now owned by the city and located on the Flathead Reservation.

The DEQ Brownfields program provided funding to assess the hazardous building materials located in the old gas station building in 2024 and early 2025. The report was finalized in May 2025 and the DEQ Brownfields Program released an Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) for public comment in 2025. The document proposes the full abatement and demolition of the gas station building to assist in the future redevelopment of the site. It is anticipated that with the demolition of this building, DEQ and EPA will be able to better assess the petroleum contamination located beneath this building. It will also move the site closer to redevelopment and closure of the petroleum release. Eventual redevelopment is expected to result in tax revenue, job creation, and improved aesthetics.

DEQ has been in communication with the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes since before the city took ownership of the property and will be inviting the tribe to participate in the ABCA public comment period.

DISASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (MT DES), through its District Field Officer outreach, continues to strengthen partnerships with tribal emergency managers across the state. In July 2024, the office organized and led the Annual Montana Tribal Emergency Management Council (MTEMC) meeting, reinforcing collaboration and shared learning.

Additionally, DES worked closely with Blaine County and Fort Belknap emergency managers to address pressing water and fire challenges. Water availability in the Milk River—affected by the St. Mary siphon repair—has reduced storage in the Fresno Reservoir, with upstream demands from Havre and agriculture impacting Fort Belknap's access. Fire protection is also strained, with BIA coverage limited to 12-hour shifts using a single Type 6 engine and minimal staffing. Volunteer capacity is under pressure due to high call volumes.

Through proactive outreach and relationship-building on, MT DES is helping tribal partners prepare for and respond to emergencies more effectively—strengthening resilience across Montana.

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK REMOVAL IN FORT BELKNAP

Montana Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQs) Underground Storage Tank program is coordinating with the Fort Belknap Indian Community regarding underground storage tank systems at the Little River Trading Post in Harlem.

The project includes closure and removal of the former tank systems, a site assessment to investigate and sample for possible leaks associated with running a gas station, and installation of three new tank systems with the latest leak detection systems. As of June 2025, the removal project is mostly completed, and the installation is moving forward.

The Fort Belknap Indian Community contracted with the Oneida ESC Group on this project. The Oneida ESC Group is a tribally-owned family of small businesses and SBA 8(a) companies that is eligible for direct awards. Oneida ESC Group staff and Fort Belknap Indian Community's inspector have acted as the primary points of contact and oversight with DEQ, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and contractors.

APPENDIX A: TRIBAL NATIONS' MAIN CONTACTS

Blackfeet Nation

Phone: (406) 338-7521 | Fax: (406) 338-7530
Official Website: www.blackfeetnation.com
Chairman: Rodney "Minnow" Gervais
DES Coordinator: (406) 338-2540
Economic Development: (406) 338-7406

Chippewa Cree Tribe

Phone: (406) 395-5705 | Fax: (406) 395-5702
Official Website: www.facebook.com/ChippewaCree
Chairman: Harlan Baker
DES Coordinator: (406) 395-4225
Economic Development: (406) 395-5705

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Phone: (406) 675-2700 | Fax: (406) 675-2806
Official Website: www.cskt.org
Chairman: Michael Dolson
DES Coordinator: (406) 675-2700 ext. 6414
Economic Development: (406) 675-2700 ext. 1163

Crow Nation

Phone: (406) 638-3708 | Fax: (406) 638-3773
Official Website: www.crow-nsn.gov
Chairman: Frank White Clay
DES Coordinator: (406) 679-6415
Economic Development: (406) 338-7406

Fort Belknap Indian Community

Phone: (406) 353-2205 | Fax: (406) 353-4541
Official Website: www.ftbelknap.org
President: Jeffery Stiffarm
DES Coordinator: (406) 353-4874
Economic Development: (406) 353-2205

Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes

Phone: (406) 675-2700 | Fax: (406) 675-2806
Official Website: www.cskt.org
Chairman: Justin Gray Hawk, Sr.
DES Coordinator: (406) 768-2300
Economic Development: (406) 768-2344

Little Shell Chippewa Tribe

Phone: (406) 315-2400 | Fax: (406) 315-2401
Official Website: www.montanalittleshelltribe.org
Chairman: Gerald Gray

Northern Cheyenne Tribe

Phone: (406) 477-6284 | Fax: (406) 477-6210
Official Website: www.cheyennenation.com
President: Gene Small
DES Coordinator: (406) 477-4959
Economic Development: (406) 477-6284

APPENDIX B: AMERICAN INDIANS ON STATE BOARDS

Full Name	Tribal Affiliation	Board
Misty Kuhl	Salish Kootenai Assiniboine Sioux	9-1-1 Advisory Council
Audrey Finlayson	Blackfeet	Aging, Governor's Advisory Council on
Roberta Bigback	Northern Cheyenne	
Jerry Thex	Northern Cheyenne	
Steven Small	Northern Cheyenne	Architects and Landscape Architects, Board of
Corky Clairmont	Confederated Salish & Kootenai	Arts Council, Montana
Sean Chandler	Gros Ventre	
Angela Russell	Northern Cheyenne	
Skye Gilham	Blackfeet	Burial Preservation Board
Gheri Hall	Blackfeet	
Kevin Askan	Confederated Salish & Kootenai	
Aaron Brien	Crow	
Michael Black Wolf	Fort Belknap	
Erika Scheuring	Inupiat	
Duane Reid	Little Shell	
Wallace Bearchum	Northern Cheyenne	
Donnie Wetzel	Blackfeet	Community Service, Commission on
Jim Swan	Chippewa Cree	
Richard Kirn	Assiniboine Sioux	Crime Control, Board of
Amanda Littlesun	Blackfeet	
Eldena Bear Don't Walk	Salish/ Crow/ Little Shell	Criminal Justice Oversight Council, Montana
Renee Parsley Mulcahy	Turtle Mountain Chippewa	Dentistry, Board of
Susan Webber	Blackfeet	Developmental Disabilities, Montana Council on (MCDD)
Angel Lei	Northern Cheyenne	Emergency Response Commission (SERC), State
Wallace Gladstone	Blackfeet	Engineers and Land Surveyors, Board of Professional
Rose Krieg	Little Shell	Historical Preservation Review Board, State
Aaron LaFromboise	Blackfeet	Historical Records Advisory Council
Steve Lozar	Salish Kootenai	Historical Society Board of Trustees
Shawn Real Bird	Crow	Horseracing, Board of
Buckshot Nelson	Little Shell	
Rachel Arthur	Caddo	Housing, Board of
Brian Molina	Chippewa Cree	Human Rights, Commission for
Glory Highly	Sioux	Humanities Montana
Dennis Longknife	Assiniboine	Invasive Species Council (ISC)
Gerald Cobell	Blackfeet	
Tracy Tyner	Chippewa Cree	
Martin Charlo	Confederated Salish & Kootenai	
Sean Fritzler	Crow	
Charles Headdress	Fort Peck	
Joseph Kipp	Blackfeet	Livestock Loss Board
Melanie Etchemendy	Fort Belknap	Pardons and Parole, Board of
Richard Birdsell	Fort Belknap	Private Land Public Wildlife Advisory Council (PLPW)
Desiree Fox	Confederated Salish & Kootenai	Psychologists, Board of

APPENDIX B: AMERICAN INDIANS ON STATE BOARDS

Full Name	Tribal Affiliation	Board
Carolyn Pease-Lopez	Crow	Public Assistance, Board of
Joshua Turnsplenty	Crow	Public Safety Communications System Advisory Council, Statewide
Jess Edwards	Blackfeet	Public Safety Officer Standards and Training Council (POST)
Wayne Dagel	Blackfeet	Rehabilitation Council, State (SRC)
Joleen Weatherwax	Blackfeet	
Delina Cuts The Rope	Assiniboine Gros Ventre	State-Tribal Economic Development (STED) Commission
Cheryl Reevis	Blackfeet	
Richard Sangrey	Chippewa Cree	
Jennifer Finley	Confederated Salish & Kootenai	
Shawn Backbone	Crow	
Bryce Kirk	Fort Peck	
Shannon Martell	Fort Peck	
Gerald Gray	Little Shell Chippewa	
Melissa Lonebear	Northern Cheyenne	
Misty Kuhl	Salish Kootenai Assiniboine Sioux	
Lailani Upham	Blackfeet	Tourism Advisory Council (TAC)
Noel Sansaver	Assiniboine Sioux	Transportation Commission
Theresa Madril	Little Shell	Trauma Care Committee
Chauncey Parker	Chippewa Cree	Veterans' Affairs, Board of
Misty Kuhl	Salish Kootenai Assiniboine Sioux	
George Real Bird	Crow	Youth Justice Council (YJC)
Maegan Rides At The Door	Fort Peck Sioux/Assiniboine	

APPENDIX C: GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AND CABINET AGENCIES' MAIN CONTACTS

Greg Gianforte, Governor

Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor

PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801
Phone: (406) 444-3111
Fax: (406) 444-5529

Chris Heggem, Chief of Staff

Travis Hall, Senior Advisor & Deputy Chief of Staff

Sean Southard, Director of Communications

Kaitlin Price, Deputy Director of Communications & Press Secretary

Katharine Taylor, Special Projects Coordinator

Anna Brightwell, Creative and Digital Director

Anita Milanovich, General Counsel

Rachel Meredith, Counsel

Rachel Green, Policy Director

Rich Roth, Natural Resources & Agriculture Policy Advisor

Christian Bray, Energy, Commerce, Transportation, & Military Affairs Policy Advisor

Hannah Slusser, Scheduler to the Lt. Governor / Boards & Appointments Advisor

Karli Hill, Director of Engagement

Guylaine Gelinas, Administrative Specialist/Extradition Coordinator

Grace Holzer, Executive Scheduler to the Governor

Nicolas Miller, Constituent Services

Mark Blasdel, Director of Economic Development

Ruth Dresser, Economic Development Specialist

Marissa Tinoco, Economic Development Specialist

Melissa Zeiler, Senior Economic Development Specialist

APPENDIX C: GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AND CABINET AGENCIES' MAIN CONTACTS

Governor's Office of Indian Affairs

Phone: (406) 444-3702
Fax: (406) 444- 5529
Misty Kuhl, Director

Governor's Budget Office

Phone: (406) 444-3616
Fax: (406) 444-4670
budget.mt.gov

Ryan Osmundson, Director of Budget and Program Planning
Amy Sassano, Deputy Budget Director
Ryan Evans, Assistant Budget Director
Brandy Itzel, Executive Assistant

Governor's Cabinet Agencies

Misty Ann Giles
Director of the Department of Administration
(406) 444-2460

Jillien Streit
Director of the Department of Agriculture
(406) 444-3144

Marta Bertoglio
Director of the Department of Commerce
(406) 841-2700

Brian Gootkin
Director of the Department of Corrections
(406) 444-3930

Sonja Nowakowski
Director of the Department of Environmental Quality
(406) 444-2544

Christy Clark
Director of the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
(406) 444-2535

Misty Kuhl
Director of the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
(406) 444-3702

Sarah Swanson
Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry
(406) 444- 1 484

Mike Honeycutt
Executive Officer of the Department of Livestock
(406) 444-7323

Brigadier General Trenton Gibson
Director of the Department of Military Affairs and Adjutant General of the Montana National Guard
(406) 324-3000

Amanda Kaster
Director of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
(406) 444-2074

Charlie Brereton
Director of the Department of Public Health and Human Services
(406) 444-5622

Brendan Beatty
Director of the Department of Revenue
(406) 444-6900

Christopher Dorrington
Director of the Department of Transportation
(406) 444-6200

Kevin Gilbertson
Chief Information Officer
(406) 444-2511

APPENDIX D: STATE TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

Tribe	Agency	Agreement Category	Agreement Name	Status	Contact	Phone
BLACKFEET	Agriculture	Environmental - Weeds	Noxious Weeds Trust Fund (NWTF) 2025 Reservation Program Enhancement Grant	In Effect	Chaffee, Jasmine	406-444-3140
			Noxious Wees Trust Fund (NWTF) 2024 Reservation Program Enhancement Grant	Expired	Chaffee, Jasmine	406-444-3140
	Commerce	Economic Development - Business Development	East Glacier Mini Mall Improvements MT-TBDG-23-02	In Effect	Altekruse, TJ	406-594-8492
			Native American Business Advisor Program MT-NABA-24-02	Expired	Altekruse, TJ	406-594-8492
			Native American Business Advisor Program MT-NABA-25-02	Expired	Singer, Bryan	406-422-8947
			Native American Business Advisor Program MT-TBDG-25-00	In Effect	Altekruse, TJ	406-594-8492
		Economic Development - Public Facility Infrastructure Contstruction	Blackfeet Spiritual and Heritage Center Construction Project	In Effect	Young, Rachel	406-841-2867
		Economic Development - Tourism Development & Promotion	Tribal Tourism Event Sponsorship 51-TTP-25-002	In Effect	Brown, Rachelle	406-841-2734
			Tribal Tourism Event Sponsorship 51-TTP-25-005	In Effect	Brown, Rachelle	406-841-2734
			Tribal Tourism Historic Preservation Grant 51-TTHPG-25-002	In Effect	Brown, Rachelle	406-841-2734
	Environmental Quality	Environmental - Water	Public Water Supply Operator Certification	In Effect	Olsen, Greg	406-444-0493
	Fish, Wildlife & Parks	Environmental - Fish & Wildlife Management	Blackfeet Hunting Lottery License	In Effect	Kuka, Kqyn	406-750-3574
			Chronic Wasting Disease Testing Collaboration	In Effect	Kuka, Kqyn	406-750-3574
			Elk Data and Research Collaboration MOU	In Effect	Kuka, Kqyn	406-750-3574
		Environmental - Water	Aquatic Invasive Species Inspections Agreement	In Effect	Woolf, Thomas	406-444-1230
	Historical Society	Environmental - Cultural Preservation	Digital Data and Information Use Agreement	In Effect	Bush, Jessica	406-444-0388
	Justice	Justice - Law Enforcement - Cooperation	Communication System Equipment MOU	In Effect	Howell, Jamin	406-270-0804
			Criminal Justice Information Network Agency Agreement with Law Enforcement	In Effect	Frost, Brian	406-444-2800
			Criminal Justice Information Network Agreement	In Effect	Frost, Brian	406-444-2800
			Fingerprint User Agreement	In Effect	Bright, Jason	406-444-3481
			Fingerprint User Agreement with Child and Family Services	In Effect	Bright, Jason	406-444-3481
			Fingerprint User Agreement with Head Start	In Effect	Bright, Jason	406-444-3481
			Fingerprint User Agreement with Personnel Department	In Effect	Bright, Jason	406-444-3481

APPENDIX D: STATE TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

Tribe	Agency	Agreement Category	Agreement Name	Status	Contact	Phone
BLACKFEET	Justice	Justice - Law Enforcement - Cooperation	Highway Patrol Law Enforcement Cooperative Agreement	In Effect	Vanisko, Chad	406-594-8665
	Labor & Industry	Economic Development - Housing & Community Development	Boiler Safety Inspections	In Effect	Cook, David	406-841-2303
		Economic Development - Job & Worker Training	Blackfeet Community College Montana Career Resource Network (MCIS)	In Effect	Owen, Jennifer	406-594-0622
			State Workforce Investment Board Statewide MOU (All Tribes)	In Effect	Owen, Jennifer	406-594-0622
			Working Friends One-Stop Workforce Employment Center	In Effect	Wimmer, Sarah	406-218-7454
	Military Affairs	Human Services - Homeland Security / DES	FFY21 Operation Stonegarden Grant - Border Security	Expired	Honzel, Burke	406-417-9233
			FFY22 Operation Stonegarden Grant - Border Security	Expired	Honzel, Burke	406-417-9233
	Natural Resources & Conservation	Environmental - Water	Birch Creek Water Use Deferral Agreement	In Effect	Hoyt, Pelah	406-324-0718
			Reserved Water Rights Compact	In Effect	Hoyt, Pelah	406-324-0718
			Reserved Water Rights Compact	In Effect	Hoyt, Pelah	406-324-0718
			St. Mary's Working Group	In Effect	Coleman, Autumn	406-444-6687
	Office of Public Instruction	Education - Indian Education	Class 7 Educator Licensure Process	In Effect	Andrews, Crystal	406-444-6325
			Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE)	In Effect	Gondara, Brooke	406-444-4527
			Montana Indian Language Preservation (MILP-1)	Expired	Bell, Matthew	406-431-6626
	Public Health & Human Services	Human Services - Family Economic Self-Sufficiency	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	In Effect	Fox, Jennifer	406-444-7917
			Vocational Rehabilitation Cooperative Agreement	In Effect	Conzelman, Lacey	406-655-7673
		Human Services - Family Services	Foster Care Services - Blackfeet Nurturing Center 20213SCHS0007	In Effect	Shanahan, Tom	406-300-7445
			Non-Title IV-E Child Welfare Services 20143TRIB0004	In Effect	Shanahan, Tom	406-300-7445
			Non-Title IV-E Child Welfare Services 20143TRIB0004	In Effect	Shanahan, Tom	406-300-7445
			SEARCHS Inquiry Access Agreement	In Effect	Twardoski, Christie	406-444-1846
			Title IV-E Child Welfare Services and Related Indian Child Welfare (ICWA) Services -	In Effect	Shanahan, Tom	406-300-7445
			Tribal IV-D Tribal Child Support Training and Technical Assistance	In Effect	Twardoski, Christie	406-444-1846

APPENDIX D: STATE TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

Tribe	Agency	Agreement Category	Agreement Name	Status	Contact	Phone
BLACKFEET	Public Health & Human Services	Human Services - Public Health & Health Services	Blackfeet HMF TO AMD7	In Effect	Hanson, Laurie	406-444-5925
			Blackfeet Nation SHIP Counseling for Medicare Beneficiaries	In Effect	Stellmon, Janet	406-444-4077
			Blackfeet Tribal Behavioral Health 25-101-74032-0	In Effect	Bolstridge, Violet	406-439-5213
			Communities That Care, providing support, risk and protection for community goals	In Effect	Hansen, Jami	406-444-3055
			Community Based Prevention, Substance misuse/abuse prevention	In Effect	Hansen, Jami	406-444-3055
			Crisis Diversion, providing technical assistance to federally recognized tribes local jail & hospital diversion efforts	In Effect	Bolstridge, Violet	406-439-5213
			DPHHS Master Agreement	In Effect	DeRoche, Heidi	406-444-5649
			Eagle Shield Senior Citizens Home and Community Based Services- 6901-22-0003-01	In Effect	Brunett, Denise	406-444-4544
			Emergency Preparedness 25-07-6-11-003-0	Expired	Tobin, Collin	406-444-3011
			Healing and Ending Addiction Through Recovery and Treatment (HEART) Fund Grant	In Effect	Coy, Issac	406-444-7922
			Journey Home, collection of opioid use & stimulant use disorder treatments	In Effect	Munn, Emily	406-444-6981
			Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting ECFSD 24-25-5-41-184-0	Expired	Isaly, Jacqueline	406-444-4743
			Medicaid Eligibility Determination	In Effect	Fox, Jennifer	406-444-7917
			Medicaid Reimbursement	In Effect	Peck, Casey	406-444-5778
			Partnership for Success, Reduce the onset & progression of substance misuse	In Effect	Kolar, Meaghan	406-444-9635
			Personal Assistance Program - 6901-22-0002-01	In Effect	Stellmon, Janet	406-444-4077
			Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) AMD1 FY25	In Effect	Hanson, Laurie	406-444-5925
			State Opioid Response, collection of opioid use & stimulant use disorder treatments	Expired	Munn, Emily	406-444-6981
			Tobacco Use Prevention Grant 24-07-3-31-001-0 Task Order	In Effect	Ullman, Jennifer	406-444-3866
			Tribal Health Improvement Program	In Effect	Wisner-Kinsey, Elizabeth	406-444-1292

APPENDIX D: STATE TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

Tribe	Agency	Agreement Category	Agreement Name	Status	Contact	Phone
BLACKFEET	Public Health & Human Services	Human Services - Public Health & Health Services	Women, Infants and Children Contract ECFSD 24-25-5-21-025-0	Expired	Isaly, Jacqueline	406-444-4743
	Revenue	Finance - Revenue Sharing	Alcoholic Beverages Tax Agreement	In Effect	Gochis, Chelsey	406-444-1250
			Tobacco Tax Agreement	In Effect	Gochis, Chelsey	406-444-1250
	Transportation	Economic Development - Highway & Facility Construction / Maintenance	Browning - Urban	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			East Glacier - E&W	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance MOU	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
		Economic Development - Infrastructure Development	Browning - Urban	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			East Glacier-E & W	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Glacier County Snow Fence	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Multi-Use Path-Heart Butte	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SF 209 Great Falls Dist Signs	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
		Economic Development - Project Specific Agreement	5311 Operating FY22	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Browning North - Secondary Route 464, Glacier Cty	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Browning-West (IC) Multiple Routes, Glacier County	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Browning-West (IC) State Primary Route 58/US 89	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			East of Kiowa-East (CN & CE)	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Hudson Bay Divide South (CN & CE)	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Hudson Bay Divide South (PE) State Primary	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			JCT MT - 44 Northwest, US-89 - Multiple Locations	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Multi-Use Path - Heart Butte (IC)	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Multi-Use Path - Heart Butte (PE)	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Multi-Use Path - Heart Butte (PE) Pondera County	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			MULTI-USE PATH-HEART BUTTE (RW)	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			North of Kiowa - N (CN & CE) State Primary	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			North of Kiowa - N R/W	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Resurfacing Roadway Browning-Southeast (CN & CE)	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058

APPENDIX D: STATE TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

Tribe	Agency	Agreement Category	Agreement Name	Status	Contact	Phone
BLACKFEET	Transportation	Economic Development - Project Specific Agreement	Road Repairs Browning-Southwest (CN & CE) National Highway 1	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SOAR - Safe On All Roads	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Transade Allocation SFY26	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			US-89 Erosion Repair - Two Medicine (RW) Primary Route 3	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			US-89 Erosion RPR-Two Medicine (CN & CE) Primary Route 3	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
		Finance - Revenue Sharing	Gasoline Revenue Sharing Agreement	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
CHIPPEWA CREE	Agriculture	Environmental - Weeds	Noxious Weed Trust Fund (NWTF) 2024 Reservation Program Enhancement Grant	Expired	Chaffee, Jasmine	406-444-3140
			Noxious Weed Trust Fund (NWTF) 2025 Reservation Program Enhancement Grant	In Effect	Chaffee, Jasmine	406-444-3140
	Commerce	Economic Development - Business Development	Native American Business Advisor Program MT-NABA-24-03	Expired	Altekruse, TJ	406-594-8492
			Native American Business Advisor Program MT-NABA-25-03	Expired	Singer, Bryan	406-422-8947
		Economic Development - Tourism Development & Promotion	Tribal Tourism Event Sponsorship 51-TTP-24-003	Expired	Brown, Rachelle	406-841-2734
			Tribal Tourism Event Sponsorship 51-TTP-25-003	In Effect	Brown, Rachelle	406-841-2734
			Tribal Tourism Grant Annual MT-TTG-25-003	In Effect	Brown, Rachelle	406-841-2734
			Tribal Tourism Historic Preservation Grant 51-TTHPG-25-003	In Effect	Brown, Rachelle	406-841-2734
	Corrections	Justice - Law Enforcement - Cooperation	Probation & Parole Memorandum of Understanding	Expired	Yonker, Charity	406-444-3930
	Environmental Quality	Environmental - Water	Public Water Supply Operator Certification	In Effect	Olsen, Greg	406-444-0493
			Rural Water Systems Collaboration	In Effect	Olsen, Greg	406-444-0493
	Governor's Office	Economic Development - Gaming	Class III Gaming Compact	In Effect	Milanovich, Anita	406-444-3111
	Historical Society	Environmental - Cultural Preservation	Digital Data and Information Use Agreement	In Effect	Bush, Jessica	406-444-0388
	Justice	Human Services - Crime Control	Ojibwa Neiyahw Project for Tribal Juvenile Justice Court	Expired	Shields, Jeremy	406-444-2056
		Justice - Law Enforcement - Cooperation	Criminal Justice Information Network Agency Agreement	In Effect	Frost, Brian	406-444-2800
			Fingerprint User Agreement	In Effect	Bright, Jason	406-444-3481
			Fingerprint User Agreement	In Effect	Bright, Jason	406-444-3481
	Labor & Industry	Economic Development - Housing & Community Development	Boiler Safety Inspections	In Effect	Cook, David	406-841-2303
		Economic Development - Job & Worker Training	Montana Career Resouce Network (MCIS)	In Effect	Owen, Jennifer	406-594-0622

APPENDIX D: STATE TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

Tribe	Agency	Agreement Category	Agreement Name	Status	Contact	Phone
CHIPPEWA CREE	Labor & Industry	Economic Development - Job & Worker Training	State Workforce Investment Board Statewide MOU (All Tribes)	In Effect	Owen, Jennifer	406-594-0622
	Natural Resources & Conservation	Environmental - Water	Reserved Water Rights Compact	In Effect	Hoyt, Pelah	406-324-0718
	Office of Public Instruction	Education - Indian Education	Class 7 Educator Licensure Process	In Effect	Andrews, Crystal	406-444-6325
			Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE)	In Effect	Gondara, Brooke	406-444-4527
			Montana Indian Language Preservation (MILP-1)	Expired	Bell, Matthew	406-431-6626
	Public Health & Human Services	Environmental - Water	CDEpi Wastewater Testing Task Order 24-07-7-11-149-0	Expired	Hopkins, Beth	406-444-3012
		Human Services - Family Economic Self-Sufficiency	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	Expired	Fox, Jennifer	406-444-7917
			Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	In Effect	Fox, Jennifer	406-444-7917
			Vocational Rehabilitation Cooperative Agreement	In Effect	Conzelman, Lacey	406-655-7673
		Human Services - Family Services	Non-Title IV-E Child Welfare Services 20143TRIB0002	In Effect	Shanahan, Tom	406-300-7445
			State/Tribal IV-D Child Support Training and Technical Assistance	In Effect	Twardoski, Christie	406-444-1846
			Title IV-E Child Welfare Services and Related Indian Child Welfare (ICWA) Services -	In Effect	Shanahan, Tom	406-300-7445
		Human Services - Public Health & Health Services	Breast & Cervical Health MOU	In Effect	Wamsley, Mark	406-444-0063
			Chippewa Cree FDPNE 23-027-250105	Expired	Loewen, Sara	406-447-4265
			Communities That Care, providing support, risk and protection for community goals	In Effect	Hansen, Jami	406-444-3055
			Community Based Prevention, Substance misuse/abuse prevention	In Effect	Hansen, Jami	406-444-3055
			DPHHS Master Agreement	In Effect	DeRoche, Heidi	406-444-5649
			Emergency Preparedness 25-07-6-11-010-0	Expired	Tobin, Collin	406-444-3011
			Food Distribution on the Indian Reservation 23027250010	Expired	Schulz, Keren	406-444-7921
			Food Distribution on the Indian Reservation 23027250105	Expired	Loewen, Sara	406-447-4265
			Food Distribution Program Nutrition Education	In Effect	Loewen, Sara	406-447-4265
			Food Distribution Program Nutrition Education	In Effect	Loewen, Sara	406-447-4265

APPENDIX D: STATE TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

Tribe	Agency	Agreement Category	Agreement Name	Status	Contact	Phone
CHIPPEWA CREE	Public Health & Human Services	Human Services - Public Health & Health Services	Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations	In Effect	Loewen, Sara	406-447-4265
			Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations	In Effect	Loewen, Sara	406-447-4265
			Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) 23-027-250010	Expired	Loewen, Sara	406-447-4265
			Healing and Ending Addiction Through Recovery and Treatment (HEART) Fund Grant 22-101-74142-0	In Effect	Coy, Issac	406-444-7922
			Medicaid Administrative Match	In Effect	Roberts, Jacqueline	406-444-1292
			Medicaid Reimbursement	In Effect	Peck, Casey	406-444-5778
			Partnership for Success, Reduce the onset & progression of substance misuse	Expired	Hansen, Jami	406-444-3055
			Rocky Boy Health Center Home and Community Based Services Program	In Effect	Brunett, Denise	406-444-4544
			Rocky Boy Health Center Medicaid Eligibility	Expired	Fox, Jennifer	406-444-7917
			Rocky Boy Health Center Medicaid Eligibility	In Effect	Fox, Jennifer	406-444-7917
			Rocky Boy Health Center Personal Care Assistance Program	In Effect	Stellmon, Janet	406-444-4077
			Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) AMD1 FY25	In Effect	Hanson, Laurie	406-444-5925
			Substance Use Disorders, Treatment Services	In Effect	Harris, Justin	406-444-9657
			Tobacco Use Prevention Grant 24-07-3-31-020-0 Task Order	In Effect	Ullman, Jennifer	406-444-3866
			Tribal Health Improvement Program	In Effect	Wisner-Kinsey, Elizabeth	406-444-1292
			Women, Infants and Children Contract ECFSD 24-25-5-21-029-0	Expired	Isaly, Jacqueline	406-444-4743
	Revenue	Finance - Revenue Sharing	Alcoholic Beverages Tax Agreement	In Effect	Gochis, Chelsey	406-444-1250
			Tobacco Tax Agreement	In Effect	Gochis, Chelsey	406-444-1250
	Transportation	Economic Development - Highway & Facility Construction / Maintenance	Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance MOU	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
		Economic Development - Project Specific Agreement	5311 Operating Grants - Public Transit	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Resurfacing Roadway Box Elder-West (CN & CE)	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058

APPENDIX D: STATE TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

Tribe	Agency	Agreement Category	Agreement Name	Status	Contact	Phone
CHIPPEWA CREE	Transportation	Economic Development - Project Specific Agreement	Resurfacing Roadway Rocky Boy Road S-334 (CN & CE)	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SOAR - Safe On All Roads	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
		Finance - Revenue Sharing	Gasoline Revenue Sharing Agreement	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
CONFEDERATED SALISH & KOOTENAI	Agriculture	Environmental - Environmental Health	State, CSKT, and Lake County MOU for Pesticides Containers Recycling	In Effect	Berry, Leonard	406-444-6982
	Commerce	Economic Development - Business Development	Native American Business Advisor Program MT-NABA-24-04	Expired	Altekruse, TJ	406-594-8492
			Native American Business Advisor Program MT-NABA-25-04	Expired	Singer, Bryan	406-422-8947
			Tribal Business Development Program MT-TBDG-25-01	In Effect	Altekruse, TJ	406-594-8492
		Economic Development - Tourism Development & Promotion	Tribal Tourism Historic Preservation Grant 51-TTHPG-25-004	In Effect	Brown, Rachelle	406-841-2734
	Environmental Quality	Environmental - Cooperative Agreement	Clark Fork River Cleanup	In Effect	Dudding, Logan	406-444-6407
			Elk-Kootenai/y Watershed International Joint Commission Governance Body Terms of Reference	In Effect	Ulven, Andy	406-444-2680
			Lake County Tire Depot Landfill	In Effect	Collins, Fred	406-444-9879
			Lake County Transfer Station	In Effect	Collins, Fred	406-444-9879
		Environmental - Environmental Health	Lake County Landfill License	In Effect	Collins, Fred	406-444-9879
		Environmental - Water	Public Water Supply Operator Certification	In Effect	Olsen, Greg	406-444-0493
		Environmental - Water Quality	Revais Creek Mine Reclamation Project	In Effect	Gilmore, Meagan	406-755-8981
	Fish, Wildlife & Parks	Education - Indian Education	Cultural Interpretive Plan at Fort Owen and Milltown State Parks	In Effect	Flynn, Loren	406-542-5517
		Environmental - Cooperative Agreement	Bull Trout Recovery Team	In Effect	Rechkoff, Kevin	406-594-8069
			Interagency Bison Management Plan	In Effect	O'Neill, Deb	405-594-9023
		Environmental - Cultural Preservation	Winter Storytelling Series Collaboration at Travelers' Rest State Park	In Effect	Dickinson, Ben	406-542-5517
		Environmental - Data Sharing	Wildlife Migration Monitoring and Data-sharing Agreement	In Effect	Brooks, Adam	406-444-3032
		Environmental - Fish & Wildlife Management	Bear Data/Research Sharing Region 2 and CSKT	In Effect	Dickinson, Ben	406-542-5517
			Bear Management Plan MOU	In Effect	Costello, Cecily	406-751-4583
			Bird Hunting and Fishing Agreement	In Effect	Anderson, Lee	406-751-4561
			Ex-Officio Warden Cooperative Agreement	In Effect	Anderson, Lee	406-751-4561

APPENDIX D: STATE TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

Tribe	Agency	Agreement Category	Agreement Name	Status	Contact	Phone
CONFEDERATED SALISH & KOOTENAI	Fish, Wildlife & Parks	Environmental - Fish & Wildlife Management	Fisheries Toxicity Assessment Collaboration	In Effect	Anderson, Lee	406-751-4561
			Flathead Fisheries Survey	In Effect	Anderson, Lee	406-751-4561
			Flathead Lake Co-Management Plan - Fisheries	In Effect	Anderson, Lee	406-751-4561
			Hungry Horse Dam Fisheries Mitigation Project	In Effect	Anderson, Lee	406-751-4561
			Thompson Falls Dam	In Effect	Rechkoff, Kevin	406-594-8069
			Wildlife Management Agreement - Big Horn Sheep Capture, Grizzly Populations, Trumpeter Swan Survey	In Effect	Anderson, Lee	406-751-4561
			Wildlife Surveys on the Flathead Indian Reservation	In Effect	Brooks, Adam	406-444-3032
		Environmental - Water	Aquatic Invasive Species Inspections Agreement	In Effect	Woolf, Thomas	406-444-1230
	Historical Society	Environmental - Historic Preservation	Digital Data and Information Use Agreement	In Effect	Bush, Jessica	406-444-0388
	Justice	Justice - Law Enforcement - Cooperation	Communication System Equipment MOU	In Effect	Howell, Jamin	406-270-0804
			Criminal Justice Information Network Agency Agreement with Tribal Police	In Effect	Frost, Brian	406-444-2800
			Criminal Justice Information Network Agreement with Flathead Tribal Police	In Effect	Frost, Brian	406-444-2800
			Criminal Justice Information Network Agreement with Tribal Prosecutor's Office	In Effect	Frost, Brian	406-444-2800
			Cross Deputization Law Enforcement MOA for Traffic Offenses	In Effect	Vanisko, Chad	406-594-8665
			Department of Human Resources Development Fingerprint Program User Agreement	In Effect	Bright, Jason	406-444-3481
			Fingerprint User Agreement	In Effect	Bright, Jason	406-444-3481
	Labor & Industry	Economic Development - Housing & Community Development	Boiler Safety Inspections	In Effect	Cook, David	406-841-2303
			Electrical Permitting and Inspections	In Effect	Cook, David	406-841-2303
		Economic Development - Job & Worker Training	Mission Valley One-Stop Consortium Agreement	In Effect	Wimmer, Sarah	406-218-7454
			Salish Kootenai College Montana Career Resource Network (MCIS)	In Effect	Owen, Jennifer	406-594-0622
			State Workforce Investment Board Statewide MOU (All Tribes)	In Effect	Owen, Jennifer	406-594-0622
	Natural Resources & Conservation	Environmental - Forestry	Wildland Fire Protection Service Agreement	In Effect	Carlson, Deana	406-542-4308

APPENDIX D: STATE TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

Tribe	Agency	Agreement Category	Agreement Name	Status	Contact	Phone
CONFEDERATED SALISH & KOOTENAI	Natural Resources & Conservation	Environmental - Water	Contracted Water From Hungry Horse Reservoir	In Effect	Hoyt, Pelah	406-324-0718
			Water Management MOU WM-CSKT-159	In Effect	Hoyt, Pelah	406-324-0718
		Environmental - Water Compact	Reserved Water Rights Compact	In Effect	Hoyt, Pelah	406-324-0718
	Office of Public Instruction	Education - Indian Education	Class 7 Educator Licensure Process	In Effect	Andrews, Crystal	406-444-6325
			Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE)	In Effect	Gondara, Brooke	406-444-4527
			Montana Indian Language Preservation (MILP-1)	Expired	Bell, Matthew	406-431-6626
	Public Health & Human Services	Human Services - Family Economic Self-Sufficiency	Foster Care Independence Program FCIP - Task Order 18037620002	In Effect	Shanahan, Tom	406-300-7445
			Vocational Rehabilitation Cooperative Agreement	In Effect	Conzelman, Lacey	406-655-7673
		Human Services - Family Services	Case Referral Plan Memorandum of Understanding	In Effect	Twardoski, Christie	406-444-1846
			Child Support License 6901-05-0001-01	In Effect	Twardoski, Christie	406-444-1846
			Non-Title IV-E Child Welfare Services 20143TRIB0001	In Effect	Shanahan, Tom	406-300-7445
			State/Tribal IV-D Child Support Training and Technical Assistance	In Effect	Twardoski, Christie	406-444-1846
			Title IV-E Child Welfare Services and Related Indian Child Welfare (ICWA) Services -	In Effect	Shanahan, Tom	406-300-7445
			Title IV-E Stipends/Training 20123STIP0001	Expired	Shanahan, Tom	406-300-7445
		Human Services - Public Health & Health Services	Breast & Cervical Health MOU	In Effect	Wamsley, Mark	406-444-0063
			Community Based Prevention, Substance misuse/abuse prevention	In Effect	Hansen, Jami	406-444-3055
			DPHHS Master Agreement	In Effect	DeRoche, Heidi	406-444-5649
			Emergency Preparedness 25-07-6-11-012-0	Expired	Tobin, Collin	406-444-3011
			Food Distribution on the Indian Reservation 23027250020	Expired	Loewen, Sara	406-447-4265
			Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations	Expired	Loewen, Sara	406-447-4265
			Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations	In Effect	Loewen, Sara	406-447-4265
			Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) 23-027-250020	Expired	Loewen, Sara	406-447-4265

APPENDIX D: STATE TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

Tribe	Agency	Agreement Category	Agreement Name	Status	Contact	Phone
CONFEDERATED SALISH & KOOTENAI	Public Health & Human Services	Human Services - Public Health & Health Services	Healing and Ending Addiction Through Recovery and Treatment (HEART) Fund Grant	In Effect	Coy, Issac	406-444-7922
			Medicaid Eligibility Determination	In Effect	Fox, Jennifer	406-444-7917
			Medicaid Reimbursement	In Effect	Peck, Casey	406-444-5778
			Partnership for Success, Reduce the onset & progression of substance misuse	Expired	Hansen, Jami	406-444-3055
			Partnership for Success, Reduce the onset & progression of substance misuse	In Effect	Kolar, Meaghan	406-444-9635
			Tobacco Use Prevention Grant 24-07-3-31-021-0 Task Order	In Effect	Ullman, Jennifer	406-444-3866
			Tribal Health Improvement Program	In Effect	Wisner-Kinsey, Elizabeth	406-444-1292
			Women, Infants and Children Contract ECFSD 24-25-5-21-027-0	Expired	Isaly, Jacqueline	406-444-4743
			Women, Infants and Children ECFSD 242552102701	In Effect	Hanson, Laurie	406-444-5925
	Revenue	Finance - Revenue Sharing	Alcohol Beverage Tax Agreement	In Effect	Gochis, Chelsey	406-444-1250
			Marijuana Tax Agreement	In Effect	Gochis, Chelsey	406-444-1250
	Transportation	Economic Development - Highway & Facility Construction / Maintenance	MT-28 Culverts - Hot Springs	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Preliminary Engineering Perma - E & W	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SF 209 Missoula North Signs	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SF189 Minesigner Safety	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance MOU	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			US 93 - N Victor & S Ravalli	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			US-93 North Ninepipe	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			US-93 Wildlife Overpass	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
		Economic Development - Infrastructure Development	Eagle Pass Trail -South	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Missoula South Signs	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Ronan- South	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SF 209 Missoula South Signs	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SF189 Curve S of Ravalli	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SF189 Glover Rd Safety	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SF189 Minesinger Safety	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Sidewalks - Hot Springs	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
		Economic Development - Infrastructure Development	WS 3-Johnson Wetland Mitigation	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058

APPENDIX D: STATE TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

Tribe	Agency	Agreement Category	Agreement Name	Status	Contact	Phone
CONFEDERATED SALISH & KOOTENAI	Transportation	Economic Development - Project Specific Agreement	5311F Operating FY22	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Bridge Replacement - Crow Creek - Ronan - Route 24202	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Elmo - West (CN & CE) Primary Route 36	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Elmo-West, Primary Route 36	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Flathead River -1M E Perma	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			PABLO AREA SIGNALS (OT) National Highway 5	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			PERMA CANYON-NORTH (CN & CE)	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Perma Canyon-North (CN & CE)	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Polson Area Signals (OT) Multiple routes	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Ronan-North (CN & CE) National Highway 5	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Ronan-North (IC) National Highway	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Ronan-Urban (PE & R/W)	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Ronan-Urban (PE & RW) National Highway 5	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Round Butte Rd Path-Ronan (IC) Lake Co, Const of sidewalks	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Round Butte Road Path-Ronan (PE)	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SF 169 S OF PABLO SFTY IMPRV	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SF 179 D1 Signs Rumble Strips (CN & CE)	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SF 179 Eagle Pass Trail Sfty, Intersection improvements	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SF 189 Glover Rd Safety (PE)	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SF 199 Finley Point LTL (PE)	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SF189 CURVE S OF RAVALLI (PE) National Highway 5, Lake County	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SOAR - Safe On All Roads	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Spring CR RD-Minesinger TRL	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Transade Allocation SFY26	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			US 93 North-Wildlife Fencing	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			US-93 Peterson Mitigation Site (CN & CE)	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			WS 3-Johnson Wetland Mitigation, PE	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			WS#3-Wood Aquatic Resources Impact Mitigation (RW) Lower Clark Fork River Basin	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058

APPENDIX D: STATE TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

Tribe	Agency	Agreement Category	Agreement Name	Status	Contact	Phone
CONFEDERATED SALISH & KOOTENAI	Transportation	Economic Development - Public Facility Infrastructure Contstruction	US 93 N - Post Creek Hill	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
		Environmental - Land Management	HSIP Program JOC - Missoula - Various Locations	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
		Finance - Revenue Sharing	Gasoline Revenue Sharing Agreement	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
CROW	Commerce	Economic Development - Business Development	Native American Business Advisor Program MT-NABA-24-05	Expired	Altekruse, TJ	406-594-8492
			Native American Business Advisor Program MT-NABA-25-05	Expired	Singer, Bryan	406-422-8947
		Economic Development - Housing & Community Development	Federal Tax Credits-Apsaalooke HA Homes I	Expired	Christensen, Amy	406-841-2225
			Federal Tax Credits-Apsaalooke HA Homes II	In Effect	Christensen, Amy	406-841-2225
		Economic Development - Public Facility Infrastructure Contstruction	Phase 3c Wastewater Collection 17-0787 CDD CB	In Effect	Blize, Jeanette	406-841-2782
			Phase 3C Wastewater Improvements CG-17-848 CDD TSEP	In Effect	Blize, Jeanette	406-841-2782
		Economic Development - Tourism Development & Promotion	Tribal Tourism Event Sponsorship 51-TTP-24-005	Expired	Brown, Rachelle	406-841-2734
			Tribal Tourism Historic Preservation Grant 51-TTHPG-25-005	In Effect	Brown, Rachelle	406-841-2734
	Environmental Quality	Environmental - Cooperative Agreement	Crow Coal Collaboration	In Effect	Dahlgren, Eric	406-444-5245
		Environmental - Environmental Health	Hardin Landfill Expansion License	In Effect	Collins, Fred	406-444-9879
		Environmental - Water	Public Water Supply Operator Certification	In Effect	Olsen, Greg	406-444-0493
	Fish, Wildlife & Parks	Environmental - Fish & Wildlife Management	Day of Honor Buffalo Donation MOU	In Effect	Kind, Aaron	406-252-1289
	Governor's Office	Economic Development - Gaming	Class III Gaming Compact	In Effect	Milanovich, Anita	406-444-3111
	Historical Society	Environmental - Cultural Preservation	Digital Data and Information Use Agreement	In Effect	Bush, Jessica	406-444-0388
	Justice	Justice - Law Enforcement - Cooperation	Criminal Justice Information Network Agreement	In Effect	Frost, Brian	406-444-2800
			Fingerprint User Agreement	In Effect	Bright, Jason	406-444-3481
			Fingerprint User Agreement with Social Services	In Effect	Bright, Jason	406-444-3481
	Labor & Industry	Economic Development - Housing & Community Development	Boiler Safety Inspections	In Effect	Cook, David	406-841-2303
		Economic Development - Job & Worker Training	Little Big Horn College Montana Career Resource Network (MCIS)	In Effect	Owen, Jennifer	406-594-0622
			State Workforce Investment Board Statewide MOU (All Tribes)	In Effect	Owen, Jennifer	406-594-0622

APPENDIX D: STATE TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

Tribe	Agency	Agreement Category	Agreement Name	Status	Contact	Phone
CROW	Labor & Industry	Human Services - Veterans	Veterans Outreach Program Collaboration	In Effect	Altmaier, Dan	406-655-6065
	Natural Resources & Conservation	Environmental - Water	Reserved Water Rights Compact	In Effect	Hoyt, Pelah	406-324-0718
	Office of Public Instruction	Education - Indian Education	Class 7 Educator License Collaboration Process	In Effect	Andrews, Crystal	406-444-6325
			Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE)	In Effect	Gondara, Brooke	406-444-4527
			Montana Indian Language Preservation (MILP-1)	Expired	Bell, Matthew	406-431-6626
	Public Health & Human Services	Human Services - Family Services	Non-Title IV-E Child Welfare Services 20143TRIB0005	In Effect	Shanahan, Tom	406-300-7445
			Non-Title IV-E Child Welfare Services 20143TRIB0005	In Effect	Shanahan, Tom	406-300-7445
			Title IV-E Child Welfare Services and Related Indian Child Welfare (ICWA) Services -	In Effect	Shanahan, Tom	406-300-7445
		Human Services - Public Health & Health Services	DPHHS Master Agreement	In Effect	DeRoche, Heidi	406-444-5649
			Healing and Ending Addiction Through Recovery and Treatment (HEART) Fund Grant 22-101-74143-0	In Effect	Coy, Issac	406-444-7922
			Medicaid Reimbursement	In Effect	Peck, Casey	406-444-5778
			Tobacco Use Prevention Grant 24-07-3-31-015-0 Task Order	In Effect	Ullman, Jennifer	406-444-3866
			Tribal Health Improvement Program	In Effect	Wisner-Kinsey, Elizabeth	406-444-1292
			Women, Infants and Children Contract ECFSD 24-25-5-21-026-0	Expired	Isaly, Jacqueline	406-444-4743
	Revenue	Finance - Revenue Sharing	Tobacco Tax Agreement	In Effect	Gochis, Chelsey	406-444-1250
	Transportation	Economic Development - Highway & Facility Construction / Maintenance	Lodge Grass - North	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Railroad Crossing - Pass CR RD-5M S Wyola	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance MOU	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
		Economic Development - Infrastructure Development	I-90 Bridge Decks _ Crow Agency	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			I-90 Culverts - Billings Area	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Lodge Grass - South	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Railroad Crossing - Woodley Lane - Hardin	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			RR Xing - 0.4M N Crow Agency	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058

APPENDIX D: STATE TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

Tribe	Agency	Agreement Category	Agreement Name	Status	Contact	Phone
CROW	Transportation	Economic Development - Infrastructure Development	RR XING-Pass CR RD-5M S Wyola	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SF 209 Billings Dist Signs	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Toluca - E & W	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			West of Busby - West	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Wyoming Line-North	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
		Economic Development - Project Specific Agreement	Billings District Signs	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			D5 Interstate Fencing (PE) Multiple routes	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Dunmore-East (PE)	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			I-90 Culvert - Lodge Grass PH2 (CN & CE) Interstate 90	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			I-94 Farm Fence-RP 0-78 D5 Interstate Fencing (CN & CE)	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Little Bighorn R-Crow Agency (PE)	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Overlay/Chip Seal - Aberdeen Interchange - West - Big Horn County	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Resurface Roadway - Garryowen South - Big Horn County	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Resurface Roadway - Lodge Grass North - Big Horn County	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Resurfacing Roadway - Garryowen - Big Horn County	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Resurfacing Roadway Hardin-East S-384 (CN & CE)	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Safety Improvements - I-90 - Wyola - Big Horn County	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SF 179 Lodge Grass Shld Widen (PE)	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SF229 N of Xavier Curve Reconstruction - Secondary Route 313 - Safety Improvements	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SOAR - Safe On All Roads	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SW of Lodge Grass - SW (CN & CE) Secondary Route 463	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			US-212/I-90 Permanent VMS - Multiple Locations	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
		Finance - Revenue Sharing	Gasoline Revenue Sharing Agreement	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
FORT BELKNAP	Agriculture	Environmental - Weeds	Noxious Weed Trust Fund (NWTF) 2025 Reservation Program Enhancement Grant	In Effect	Chaffee, Jasmine	406-444-3140
	Commerce	Economic Development - Business Development	Native American Business Advisor Program MT-NABA-24-06	Expired	Altekruse, TJ	406-594-8492
			Native American Business Advisor Program MT-NABA-25-06	Expired	Singer, Bryan	406-422-8947

APPENDIX D: STATE TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

Tribe	Agency	Agreement Category	Agreement Name	Status	Contact	Phone
FORT BELKNAP	Commerce	Economic Development - Tourism Development & Promotion	Tribal Tourism Event Sponsorship 51-TTP-24-006	Expired	Brown, Rachelle	406-841-2734
			Tribal Tourism Event Sponsorship 51-TTP-25-006	In Effect	Brown, Rachelle	406-841-2734
			Tribal Tourism Grant Annual MT-TTG-25-006	In Effect	Brown, Rachelle	406-841-2734
			Tribal Tourism Historic Preservation Grant 51-TTHPG-25-006	In Effect	Brown, Rachelle	406-841-2734
	Environmental Quality	Environmental - Environmental Health	Zortman-Landusky Mine and Swift Gulch Drainage - Technical Working Group MOU	In Effect	Jepson, Wayne	406-444-0529
		Environmental - Water	Public Water Supply Operator Certification	In Effect	Olsen, Greg	406-444-0493
	Fish, Wildlife & Parks	Environmental - Cooperative Agreement	Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Agreement	Proposed	Reno, Shane	406-265-6177
	Governor's Office	Economic Development - Gaming	Class III Gaming Compact	In Effect	Milanovich, Anita	406-444-3111
	Justice	Justice - Law Enforcement - Cooperation	Criminal Justice Information Network Agency Agreement with Tribal Police	In Effect	Frost, Brian	406-444-2800
			Criminal Justice Information Network Agreement with Fort Belknap Tribal Police	In Effect	Frost, Brian	406-444-2800
			Fingerprint User Agreement	In Effect	Bright, Jason	406-444-3481
			Fingerprint User Agreement with Human Resources Department	In Effect	Bright, Jason	406-444-3481
			Fingerprint User Agreement with Social Services	In Effect	Bright, Jason	406-444-3481
			Fingerprint User Agreement with Tribal Childcare Program	In Effect	Bright, Jason	406-444-3481
	Labor & Industry	Economic Development - Housing & Community Development	Boiler Safety Inspections	In Effect	Cook, David	406-841-2303
		Economic Development - Job & Worker Training	Fort Belknap College Montana Career Resource Network (MCIS)	In Effect	Owen, Jennifer	406-594-0622
			State Workforce Investment Board Statewide MOU (All Tribes)	In Effect	Owen, Jennifer	406-594-0622
	Natural Resources & Conservation	Environmental - Water	St. Mary's Working Group	In Effect	Coleman, Autumn	406-444-6687
		Environmental - Water Compact	Reserved Water Rights Compact	Pending	Hoyt, Pelah	406-324-0718
	Office of Public Instruction	Education - Indian Education	Class 7 Educator Licensure Process	In Effect	Andrews, Crystal	406-444-6325
			Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE)	In Effect	Gondara, Brooke	406-444-4527
			Montana Indian Language Preservation (MILP-1)	Expired	Bell, Matthew	406-431-6626

APPENDIX D: STATE TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

Tribe	Agency	Agreement Category	Agreement Name	Status	Contact	Phone
FORT BELKNAP	Public Health & Human Services	Human Services - Family Economic Self-Sufficiency	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Tribal Family Assistance Program	Expired	Fox, Jennifer	406-444-7917
			Tribal Family Assistance Program Maintenance of Effort	In Effect	Fox, Jennifer	406-444-7917
			Vocational Rehabilitation Cooperative Agreement	In Effect	Conzelman, Lacey	406-655-7673
		Human Services - Family Services	Cooperation on CSED Services and Data Sharing MOA	In Effect	Twardoski, Christie	406-444-1846
			Non-Title IV-E Child Welfare Services 20143TRIB0003	In Effect	Shanahan, Tom	406-300-7445
			Title IV-E Child Welfare Services and Related Indian Child Welfare (ICWA) Services	In Effect	Shanahan, Tom	406-300-7445
			Tribal IV-D Tribal Child Support Training and Technical Assistance	In Effect	Twardoski, Christie	406-444-1846
		Human Services - Public Health & Health Services	Community Based Prevention, Substance misuse/abuse prevention	Expired	Hansen, Jami	406-444-3055
			Community Based Prevention, Substance misuse/abuse prevention	In Effect	Harris, Justin	406-444-9657
			DPHHS Master Agreement	In Effect	DeRoche, Heidi	406-444-5649
			Emergency Preparedness 25-07-6-11-021-0	Expired	Tobin, Collin	406-444-3011
			Food Distribution on the Indian Reservation 23027250030	Expired	Schulz, Keren	406-444-7921
			Food Distribution Program Nutrition Education	In Effect	Loewen, Sara	406-447-4265
			Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations	In Effect	Loewen, Sara	406-447-4265
			Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations	In Effect	Schulz, Keren	406-444-7921
			Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) 23-027-250030	Expired	Loewen, Sara	406-447-4265
			Fort Belknap Health Center Home and Community Based Services Program - 6901-22-0005-01	In Effect	Brunett, Denise	406-444-4544
			Fort Peck Tribe - HMF - AMD6	In Effect	Hanson, Laurie	406-444-5925
			Healing and Ending Addiction Through Recovery and Treatment (HEART) Fund Grant 22-101-74145-0	In Effect	Harris, Justin	406-444-9657
			Medicaid Eligibility Determination	Expired	Fox, Jennifer	406-444-7917
			Medicaid Eligibility Determination	In Effect	Fox, Jennifer	406-444-7917
			Medicaid Reimbursement	In Effect	Peck, Casey	406-444-5778

APPENDIX D: STATE TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

Tribe	Agency	Agreement Category	Agreement Name	Status	Contact	Phone
FORT BELKNAP	Public Health & Human Services	Human Services - Public Health & Health Services	Partnership for Success, Reduce the onset & progression of substance misuse	In Effect	Kolar, Meaghan	406-444-9635
			Personal Care Assistance Program 6901-22-0004-01	In Effect	Stellmon, Janet	406-444-4077
			Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) AMD1 FY25	In Effect	Hanson, Laurie	406-444-5925
			Tobacco Use Prevention Grant 24-07-3-31-016-0 Task Order Ft. Belknap	In Effect	Ullman, Jennifer	406-444-3866
			Tribal Health Improvement Program	In Effect	Wisner-Kinsey, Elizabeth	406-444-1292
			Women, Infants and Children Contract ECFSD 24-25-5-21-028-0	Expired	Isaly, Jacqueline	406-444-4743
	Revenue	Finance - Revenue Sharing	Alcoholic Beverages Tax Agreement	In Effect	Gochis, Chelsey	406-444-1250
			Tobacco Tax Agreement	In Effect	Gochis, Chelsey	406-444-1250
	Transportation	Economic Development - Highway & Facility Construction / Maintenance	Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance MOU	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			White Bear CR-9M S FT Belknap	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
		Economic Development - Infrastructure Development	Zortman - North & South	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
		Economic Development - Project Specific Agreement	Hays - North & South (CN & CE)	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Hays - North & South (CN & CE) Primary Route 66,	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Hays - North & South (PE) Primary Route 66	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SOAR - Safe On All Roads	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
		Finance - Revenue Sharing	Gasoline Revenue Sharing Agreement	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
FORT PECK	Agriculture	Environmental - Weeds	Noxious Weed Trust Fund (NWTF) 2024 Reservation Program Enhancement Grant	Expired	Chaffee, Jasmine	406-444-3140
			Noxious Weed Trust Fund (NWTF) 2025 Reservation Program Enhancement Grant	In Effect	Chaffee, Jasmine	406-444-3140
	Commerce	Economic Development - Business Development	Native American Business Advisor Program MT-NABA-24-07	Expired	Altekruse, TJ	406-594-8492
			Native American Business Advisor Program MT-NABA-25-07	Expired	Singer, Bryan	406-422-8947
		Economic Development - Tourism Development & Promotion	Tribal Tourism Event Sponsorship 51-TTP-24-007	Expired	Brown, Rachelle	406-841-2734

APPENDIX D: STATE TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

Tribe	Agency	Agreement Category	Agreement Name	Status	Contact	Phone
FORT PECK	Commerce	Economic Development - Tourism Development & Promotion	Tribal Tourism Event Sponsorship 51-TTP-25-007	In Effect	Brown, Rachelle	406-841-2734
			Tribal Tourism Historic Preservation Grant 51-TTHPG-25-007	In Effect	Brown, Rachelle	406-841-2734
	Environmental Quality	Environmental - Environmental Health	Wolf Point Landfill Siting License	In Effect	Collins, Fred	406-444-9879
		Environmental - Remediation	Wolf Point Refinery	Proposed	Fry, Kate	406-444-6426
		Environmental - Water	Public Water Supply Operator Certification	In Effect	Olsen, Greg	406-444-0493
			Rural Water Systems Collaboration	In Effect	Olsen, Greg	406-444-0493
	Fish, Wildlife & Parks	Environmental - Fish & Wildlife Management	Chronic Wasting Disease Testing Collaboration	In Effect	Kuka, Kqyn	406-750-3574
			Fishing Regulations Cooperative Agreement	In Effect	Henery, Drew	406-808-7109
			Quarantine Bison Feasibility Study Agreement	Expired	Ken, McDonald	406-444-5645
			Swift Fox Conservation Strategy Collaboration	In Effect	Hussey, Nicole	406-808-7111
		Environmental - Land Management	Region 6 Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Trails	Expired	Shumate, Beth	406-444-3752
	Governor's Office	Economic Development - Gaming	Class III Gaming Compact	In Effect	Milanovich, Anita	406-444-3111
	Historical Society	Environmental - Cultural Preservation	Digital Data and Information Use Agreement	In Effect	Bush, Jessica	406-444-0388
	Justice	Justice - Law Enforcement - Cooperation	Cross-Deputization of Law Enforcement	In Effect	Vanisko, Chad	406-594-8665
			Fingerprint User Agreement	In Effect	Bright, Jason	406-444-3481
			Foster Home Licensing Fingerprint Program User Agreement	In Effect	Bright, Jason	406-444-3481
			Law Enforcement Cooperative Agreement	In Effect	Vanisko, Chad	406-594-8665
	Labor & Industry	Economic Development - Housing & Community Development	Boiler Safety Inspections	In Effect	Cook, David	406-841-2303
		Economic Development - Job & Worker Training	Fort Peck Community College Montana Career Resource Network (MCIS)	In Effect	Owen, Jennifer	406-594-0622
			Job Service Office Wolf Point/ Glasgow	In Effect	Wimmer, Sarah	406-218-7454
			State Workforce Investment Board Statewide MOU (All Tribes)	In Effect	Owen, Jennifer	406-594-0622
			WoRC Program Rental Agreement	In Effect	Graham, Robin	406-444-9584
	Military Affairs	Human Services - Homeland Security / DES	FY23 DR-4726 April Flooding	In Effect	Honzel, Burke	406-417-9233

APPENDIX D: STATE TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

Tribe	Agency	Agreement Category	Agreement Name	Status	Contact	Phone
FORT PECK	Natural Resources & Conservation	Environmental - Water	Reserved Water Rights Compact	In Effect	Hoyt, Pelah	406-324-0718
	Office of Public Instruction	Education - Indian Education	Class 7 Educator Licensure Process	In Effect	Andrews, Crystal	406-444-6325
			Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE)	In Effect	Gondara, Brooke	406-444-4527
			Montana Indian Language Preservation (MILP-1)	Expired	Bell, Matthew	406-431-6626
	Public Health & Human Services	Human Services - Family Economic Self-Sufficiency	Vocational Rehabilitation Cooperative Agreement	In Effect	Conzelman, Lacey	406-655-7673
		Human Services - Family Services	MOA between DPHHS, CFSD, BIA and Fort Peck Tribes 6901-03	In Effect	Shanahan, Tom	406-300-7445
			Title IV-E Child Welfare Services and Related Indian Child Welfare (ICWA) Services -	In Effect	Shanahan, Tom	406-300-7445
		Human Services - Public Health & Health Services	Community Based Prevention, Substance misuse/abuse prevention	In Effect	Hansen, Jami	406-444-3055
			Crisis Diversion & Technical Assistance	In Effect	Bolstridge, Violet	406-439-5213
			DPHHS Master Agreement	In Effect	DeRoche, Heidi	406-444-5649
			Emergency Preparedness 25-07-6-11-022-0	Expired	Tobin, Collin	406-444-3011
			Food Distribution on the Indian Reservation 23027250040	Expired	Schulz, Keren	406-444-7921
			Food Distribution Program Nutrition Education	In Effect	Loewen, Sara	406-447-4265
			Food Distribution Program Nutrition Education	In Effect	Loewen, Sara	406-447-4265
			Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations	In Effect	Loewen, Sara	406-447-4265
			Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations	In Effect	Loewen, Sara	406-447-4265
			Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations 23-027-50040	Expired	Loewen, Sara	406-447-4265
			Fort Peck HPDP Wellness Personal Assistance Program	In Effect	Stellmon, Janet	406-444-4077
			Fort Peck HPDP Wellness Waiver Program	In Effect	Brunett, Denise	406-444-4544
			Healing and Ending Addiction Through Recovery and Treatment (HEART) Fund Grant	In Effect	Coy, Issac	406-444-7922
			Home Visiting Support Services 16075010890	In Effect	Isaly, Jacqueline	406-444-4743
			Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting ECFSD	Expired	Isaly, Jacqueline	406-444-4743
			Medicaid Reimbursement	In Effect	Peck, Casey	406-444-5778

APPENDIX D: STATE TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

Tribe	Agency	Agreement Category	Agreement Name	Status	Contact	Phone
FORT PECK	Public Health & Human Services	Human Services - Public Health & Health Services	Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) AMD1 FY25	In Effect	Hanson, Laurie	406-444-5925
			Tobacco Use Prevention Grant 24-07-3-31-017-0 Task Order	In Effect	Ullman, Jennifer	406-444-3866
			Tribal Health Improvement Program	In Effect	Wisner-Kinsey, Elizabeth	406-444-1292
			Women, Infants and Children Contract Fort Peck 24-25-5-21-023-0	Expired	Isaly, Jacqueline	406-444-4743
	Revenue	Finance - Revenue Sharing	Alcoholic Beverages Tax Agreement	In Effect	Gochis, Chelsey	406-444-1250
			Tobacco Tax Agreement	In Effect	Gochis, Chelsey	406-444-1250
	Transportation	Economic Development - Highway & Facility Construction / Maintenance	RR Xing - MT13 - Macon Signing	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance MOU	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			US-2 Culvert Rehabilitation	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			US-2 Structures E of Frazer	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
		Economic Development - Infrastructure Development	19 Miles S of Scobey-South	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SF 199 Curve W of Fort Kipp	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SF 199 N of Poplar Curve Reconstruction & Signing	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SF 209 N of Wolf Point Sfty	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SF189 Wolf Point Rodeo Rd Safety	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			South of Opheim-South	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
		Economic Development - Project Specific Agreement	5311 Operating FY22	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Box Elder Creek Bridge MT-13 (CN & CE) State Primary 32	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Bridge Replacement - Big Muddy - W Medicine Lk - Route 46406	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Brockton-West (CN & CE) National Highway 1, Roosevelt County	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Construction Project Brockton - West (CN & CE) National Highway 1	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			JCT MT-25 - North Wolf Point (PE) Primary Route 32, Roosevelt County	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			JCT SEC 250 - North (CN & CE) Primary Route 32	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			JCT SEC 250-North (IC) Primary Route 32	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058

APPENDIX D: STATE TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

Tribe	Agency	Agreement Category	Agreement Name	Status	Contact	Phone
FORT PECK	Transportation	Economic Development - Project Specific Agreement	Railroad Crossing - MT13 - Macon Signing (PE) Primary Route 32	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Resurfacing Roadway JCT MT-25-North Wolf Point (CN & CE)	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Resurfacing Roadway Scobey-South (CN & CE)	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SF189 Wolf Point Rodeo Road Safety (PE) Route 43090,	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SOAR - Safe On All Roads	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Timber Bridges - Glasgow - Multiple Routes	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Transade Allocation SFY26	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			US 2 - Poplar (RW) National Highway 1	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Wolf Point - E & W (CN & CE)	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Wolf Point - E & W (PE) National Highway 1	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
		Finance - Revenue Sharing	Gasoline Revenue Sharing Agreement	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
LITTLE SHELL	Commerce	Economic Development - Business Development	Commercial Building Construction in Belgrade MT-TBDG-23-01	In Effect	Altekruse, TJ	406-594-8492
			Metal Work Shop MT-TBDG-24-01A	In Effect	Altekruse, TJ	406-594-8492
			Native American Business Advisor Program MT-NABA-25-01	Expired	Singer, Bryan	406-422-8947
		Economic Development - Tourism Development & Promotion	Tribal Tourism Event Sponsorship - 51-TTP-25-001	In Effect	Brown, Rachelle	406-841-2734
			Tribal Tourism Event Sponsorship 51-TTP-24-001	Expired	Brown, Rachelle	406-841-2734
			Tribal Tourism Grant Annual MT-TTG-25-001	In Effect	Brown, Rachelle	406-841-2734
			Tribal Tourism Historic Preservation Grant 51-TTHPG-25-001	In Effect	Brown, Rachelle	406-841-2734
	Historical Society	Environmental - Cultural Preservation	Digital Data and Information Use Agreement	In Effect	Bush, Jessica	406-444-0388
	Office of Public Instruction	Education - Indian Education	Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE)	In Effect	Gondara, Brooke	406-444-4527
			Montana Indian Language Preservation (MILP-1)	Expired	Bell, Matthew	406-431-6626
	Public Health & Human Services	Human Services - Public Health & Health Services	DPHHS Master Agreement	In Effect	DeRoche, Heidi	406-444-5649
			Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations	In Effect	Loewen, Sara	406-447-4265
			Healing and Ending Addiction Through Recovery and Treatment (HEART) Fund Grant	In Effect	Coy, Issac	406-444-7922
			Tobacco Use Prevention Grant 24-07-3-31-018-0 Task Order	In Effect	Ullman, Jennifer	406-444-3866

APPENDIX D: STATE TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

Tribe	Agency	Agreement Category	Agreement Name	Status	Contact	Phone
NORTHERN CHEYENNE	Agriculture	Environmental - Weeds	Noxious Weed Trust Fund (NWTF) 2024 Reservation Program Enhancement Grant	Expired	Chaffee, Jasmine	406-444-3140
			Noxious Weed Trust Fund (NWTF) 2025 Reservation Program Enhancement Grant	In Effect	Chaffee, Jasmine	406-444-3140
	Commerce	Economic Development - Business Development	Native American Business Advisor Program MT-NABA-24-01	Expired	Altekruse, TJ	406-594-8492
			Native American Business Advisor Program MT-NABA-24-08	Expired	Altekruse, TJ	406-594-8492
			Native American Business Advisor Program MT-NABA-25-08	Expired	Singer, Bryan	406-422-8947
			Renovate and Create a Space for a Gift Shop MT-TBDG-24-00-C	In Effect	Altekruse, TJ	406-594-8492
		Economic Development - Supplies & Services	Northern Cheyenne Utility Commission Equipment 23-0943-CDD CB	Expired	Young, Rachel	406-841-2867
		Economic Development - Tourism Development & Promotion	Tribal Tourism Event Sponsorship 51-TTP-24-008	Expired	Brown, Rachelle	406-841-2734
			Tribal Tourism Event Sponsorship 51-TTP-25-008	In Effect	Brown, Rachelle	406-841-2734
			Tribal Tourism Historic Preservation Grant 51-TTHPG-25-008	In Effect	Brown, Rachelle	406-841-2734
	Environmental Quality	Environmental - Water	Public Water Supply Operator Certification	In Effect	Olsen, Greg	406-444-0493
	Fish, Wildlife & Parks	Environmental - Fish & Wildlife Management	Chief Dull Knife Community College Research	In Effect	Volesky, Mike	406-444-4600
	Governor's Office	Economic Development - Gaming	Class III Gaming Compact	In Effect	Milanovich, Anita	406-444-3111
	Justice	Justice - Law Enforcement - Cooperation	Criminal Justice Information Network Agency Agreement with Law Enforcement	In Effect	Frost, Brian	406-444-2800
			Criminal Justice Information Network Agreement	In Effect	Frost, Brian	406-444-2800
			Fingerprint User Agreement	In Effect	Bright, Jason	406-444-3481
			Fingerprint User Agreement with Childcare Program	In Effect	Bright, Jason	406-444-3481
			Fingerprint User Agreement with Headstart Program	In Effect	Bright, Jason	406-444-3481
			Fingerprint User Agreement with Human Services	In Effect	Bright, Jason	406-444-3481
			Fingerprint User Agreement with Natural Resources Department	In Effect	Bright, Jason	406-444-3481
			Fingerprint User Agreement with Tribal Health Programs	In Effect	Bright, Jason	406-444-3481
			Law Enforcement Cooperative Agreement	In Effect	Vanisko, Chad	406-594-8665
	Labor & Industry	Economic Development - Housing & Community Development	Boiler Safety Inspections	In Effect	Cook, David	406-841-2303

APPENDIX D: STATE TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

Tribe	Agency	Agreement Category	Agreement Name	Status	Contact	Phone
NORTHERN CHEYENNE	Labor & Industry	Economic Development - Job & Worker Training	Chief Dull Knife Montana Career Resource Network (MCIS)	In Effect	Owen, Jennifer	406-594-0622
			State Workforce Investment Board Statewide MOU (All Tribes)	In Effect	Owen, Jennifer	406-594-0622
		Human Services - Veterans	Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Collaboration	In Effect	Altmaier, Dan	406-655-6065
	Military Affairs	Human Services - Homeland Security / DES	DR 4623 Presidential Disaster - Richard Springs Fire	Expired	Honzel, Burke	406-417-9233
	Natural Resources & Conservation	Environmental - Water	Reserved Water Rights Compact	In Effect	Hoyt, Pelah	406-324-0718
	Office of Public Instruction	Education - Indian Education	Class 7 Educator Licensure Process	In Effect	Andrews, Crystal	406-444-6325
			Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE)	In Effect	Gondara, Brooke	406-444-4527
			Montana Indian Language Preservation (MILP-1)	Expired	Bell, Matthew	406-431-6626
	Public Health & Human Services	Human Services - Family Economic Self-Sufficiency	Vocational Rehabilitation Cooperative Agreement	In Effect	Conzelman, Lacey	406-655-7673
		Human Services - Family Services	Non-Title IV-E Child Welfare Services 20143TRIB0006	In Effect	Shanahan, Tom	406-300-7445
			Title IV-E Child Welfare Services and Related Indian Child Welfare (ICWA) Services -	In Effect	Shanahan, Tom	406-300-7445
		Human Services - Public Health & Health Services	DPHHS Master Agreement	In Effect	DeRoche, Heidi	406-444-5649
			Emergency Preparedness 25-07-6-11-038-0	Expired	Tobin, Collin	406-444-3011
			Food Distribution on the Indian Reservation 23027250050	Expired	Schulz, Keren	406-444-7921
			Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations	In Effect	Loewen, Sara	406-447-4265
			Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations	In Effect	Loewen, Sara	406-447-4265
			Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) 23-027-250050	Expired	Loewen, Sara	406-447-4265
			Healing and Ending Addiction Through Recovery and Treatment (HEART) Fund Grant	In Effect	Coy, Issac	406-444-7922
			HIV Prevention Program (PREP) ECFSD 24-25-5-11-014-0	In Effect	Isaly, Jacqueline	406-444-4743
			Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting ECFSD 24-25-5-41-164-0	Expired	Isaly, Jacqueline	406-444-4743
			Medicaid Reimbursement	In Effect	Peck, Casey	406-444-5778
			PREP & SRAE Program AMD1	In Effect	Hanson, Laurie	406-444-5925

APPENDIX D: STATE TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

Tribe	Agency	Agreement Category	Agreement Name	Status	Contact	Phone
NORTHERN CHEYENNE	Public Health & Human Services	Human Services - Public Health & Health Services	Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) AMD1 FY25	In Effect	Hanson, Laurie	406-444-5925
			Tobacco Use Prevention Grant 24-07-3-31-019-0 Task Order	In Effect	Ullman, Jennifer	406-444-3866
			Tribal Health Improvement Program	In Effect	Wisner-Kinsey, Elizabeth	406-444-1292
			Women, Infants and Children Contract ECFSD 24-25-5-21-024-0	Expired	Isaly, Jacqueline	406-444-4743
	Revenue	Finance - Revenue Sharing	Tobacco Tax Agreement	In Effect	Gochis, Chelsey	406-444-1250
	Transportation	Economic Development - Highway & Facility Construction / Maintenance	Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance MOU	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
		Economic Development - Infrastructure Development	Glendive District Bridge	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			SF 179 Ashland Rabbittown Path	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
		Economic Development - Project Specific Agreement	East of Busby - East (PE) National Highway 37	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Lame Deer - East (CN & CE)	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
			Resurfacing Roadway Busby-East & West (CN & CE)	Expired	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058
		Finance - Revenue Sharing	Gasoline Revenue Sharing Agreement	In Effect	Clarkson, Eli	406-444-9058

This document was produced by the Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs and was produced at state expense. Information on the cost of this publication can be obtained by contacting Misty Kuhl, director of the Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs, at (406) 444-3111, oia@mt.gov or P.O. Box 20080, Helena, MT 59620-0801